

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–176

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

28 August 2025

Dear Applicant

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received on 4 August 2025 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or relevant legislation in devolved nations), please provide the following information regarding services commissioned or provided by your organisation in relation to peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP), specifically:

- Post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP)
- Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP)
- Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN)

Please break down information by individual service, clinic, and by hospital site.

1. Commissioned/Provided Services
 - a. Does your organisation commission or directly provide services specifically for PNP, PSNP, CRNP and PDPN?
 - b. If yes, list the providers (with address) and indicate whether they run standalone neuropathic pain services or integrated programs (e.g., neurology, chronic pain, cancer care).
2. Referral Pathways & Service Specifications
 - a. Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for these conditions?

- b. If yes, please supply copies or summaries.
 - c. If not, clarify whether neuropathic pain falls under broader chronic pain, MSK, diabetes, or oncology pathways.
3. Funding & Budgets
- a. What was the total expenditure on neuropathic pain services in the most recent full financial year?
 - b. If no specific figure is available, please provide overall pain management funding and any known distribution (e.g., primary/community vs secondary care).
 - c. Please indicate the type of funding, e.g. tariff or block contract
4. Planned or Recent Changes
- a. Are there current or planned changes to service commissioning/provision, structure, referral pathways, or funding for PNP, PSNP, CRNP or PDPN? For example: new service models, decommissioning, integrated pathways, or nationally/locally led initiatives
 - b. If yes, please describe and include implementation timelines.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

- 1. For commissioned/provided services:
 - a. NENC ICB does not commission or directly provide services specifically for PNP, PSNP, CRNP and PDPN.
 - b. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
- 2. For referral pathways and service specification:
 - a. The pathway is via GP referral.
 - b. The pathway is detailed on the NENC ICB Formulary and links to NICE guidance – <https://www.northeastnorthcumbriaformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=4&SubSectionRef=04.07.03&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=5723#5723>

As copies of the pathways can be accessed from the Formulary and in accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

- c. Neuropathic pain is listed as specialist pain services under NICE guidance.
3. In terms of funding and budgets
- a. In the 2024/25 financial year, North East and North Cumbria ICB had a costed value of service for Pain Management of £10.025m.
 - b. The ICB does not have a breakdown for neuropathic pain services alone, hence why the total Pain Management cost has been cited.
 - c. This represents the costed value of the service based on national and local tariffs, however, the actual value paid may differ as some of the services will be funded at block as opposed to on a tariff basis.
4. In relation to changes:
- a. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
 - b. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

In accordance with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your review, you do have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the ICB's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or www.ico.org.uk.

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk. This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Support Officer

**Information Governance Support Officer
North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**