

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–413

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

5 February 2026

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 12 January 2026 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

The request relates to the spend on virtual wards as defined in the virtual wards operational framework published by NHS England in August 2024.

1. Please provide an approximate figure (to the nearest 10%) of the amount:
 - a. spent in financial year 2024/25.
 - b. budgeted to be spent in financial year 2025/26 on virtual ward services within your ICB.
2. Please provide the approximate annual value of contracts for these services with independent sector or third sector providers (rather than NHS providers).
3. Please list independent or third sector providers whose estimated annual contract value exceeds £100,000 in any year 2024/25 to 2026/27. NB We are not seeking commercially sensitive information such as the spend with specific providers.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. Actual and budget spend figures are:
 - a. 2024/25 spend = £15.267m
 - b. 2025/26 budget = £10.635m

Please note that the 2024/25 spend included about £4.9m of monies provided non-recurrently, whilst a review of service and activity was undertaken.

2. NENC ICB had no virtual wards spend with independent sector or third sector providers.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.

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 Information 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**