

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 26-021

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

6 May 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 17 April 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**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding gender-affirming masculinizing chest surgeries commissioned by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System, and performed at Nuffield Health, Newcastle upon Tyne hospital, or any other private hospital.

Please provide the following information for the financial year 2025-26:

1. The total number of masculinizing chest surgeries (all stages) performed at Nuffield Health Newcastle upon Tyne hospital and any other private hospital commissioned by you, on NHS patients.
2. A breakdown of these surgeries by age of patient: 17-25; 26-29; above age of 30.
3. A breakdown of these surgeries by gender identity of patient, eg. non-binary, trans-masculine, male, etc.
4. The number of masculinizing chest surgeries that necessitated a revision or follow-up surgery.
5. The number of masculinizing chest surgeries at Nuffield Health Newcastle upon Tyne hospital, or any other private hospital commissioned by you, on behalf of the NHS that involved a 'nipple-free', ie. 'no nipple', top surgery.

6. The total cost of all masculinizing chest surgical procedures to the NHS at Nuffield Health Newcastle upon Tyne hospital (or any other private hospital commissioned by you) during this time period.
7. What is the current waiting list time for masculinizing chest surgeries at Nuffield Health Newcastle upon Tyne hospital (or any other private hospital commissioned by you)?

Please present the data in anonymised and electronic format. If you require any further clarification, please let me know. I look forward to receiving your response within the statutory 20 working days.

## **Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

NENC ICB does not commission this procedure. However, we have been informed that Nuffield Health does have a contract with NHS England.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI contact for NHS England [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net). Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

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](http://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](http://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**