



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–179

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

3 August 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 9 July 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 make a request for recorded information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Scope of this request (please read first, to avoid misdirection)

This request concerns the Integrated Care Board's own processes, as commissioner, for assessing, funding, and pricing new and innovative clinical technologies. To be precise about what I mean:

In scope: the ICB's process for making commissioning and funding decisions on technologies that are new or innovative, including implantable devices; high-cost or specialised devices; novel diagnostics; digital health or Software as a Medical Device; and technologies that are subject to, or recommended by, NICE guidance (for example Technology Appraisals, Highly Specialised Technologies, Medical Technologies Guidance, Diagnostics Guidance, Interventional Procedures Guidance, or an Early Value Assessment). Also in scope is the ICB's process for agreeing local prices or variations to national prices under the NHS Payment Scheme, as set out below.

Not the primary focus: routine medicines and formulary decisions taken through the Area Prescribing Committee or equivalent (please provide these only if the same route also governs the technologies described above). I am also not, in this request, asking to be redirected to provider

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Trusts; I am asking specifically about the decisions and processes that sit with the ICB as commissioner.

Where responsibility for the above is split across more than one committee or group (for example a priorities, prioritisation or investment committee; a clinical policy or evidence-based interventions group; an individual funding request panel; or a new technology or horizon-scanning group), please provide the information for each relevant committee and identify which one owns which category.

Request for recorded information

1. A copy of the current business case, funding request, or investment proposal template(s) used to seek ICB commissioning or funding of a new or innovative clinical technology as defined above.
2. The name of the committee(s) or group(s) responsible for assessing and deciding the funding of new and innovative technologies, and confirmation of which committee owns which category (for example new devices and diagnostics; novel procedures; digital health or Software as a Medical Device; and individual patient funding requests).
3. The ICB's process, and any local policy, for implementing and funding NICE guidance, distinguishing between guidance that carries a statutory funding requirement (Technology Appraisals and Highly Specialised Technologies) and advisory guidance that does not (Medical Technologies Guidance, Diagnostics Guidance, Interventional Procedures Guidance, and Early Value Assessments).
4. The Terms of Reference for each relevant committee.
5. The membership of each relevant committee by role or job title, and the name or job title of the chair or responsible officer.
6. The meeting frequency of each relevant committee, the scheduled meeting dates for the current and forthcoming year, and the deadline for submission of papers ahead of each meeting. Please also confirm whether funding or investment proposals for new technologies are subject to an annual cut-off or submission window (for example one aligned to the annual operational planning or contracting round), or whether they may be submitted and considered in-year.
7. Any standard submission forms associated with the process (for example a funding request form, an individual funding request form, a business case template, or a supporting evidence template).
8. Any evaluation, scoring, or prioritisation criteria used to assess submissions, and any financial thresholds or delegated authority limits that determine escalation to executive or Board approval.
9. The policy or standard operating procedure governing the assessment and funding of new and innovative technologies.
10. The process by which the ICB agrees local prices, local variations, or local modifications under the NHS Payment Scheme (which replaced the National Tariff Payment System from 2023/24) for a new technology, device, or procedure that has no applicable national price, or where an existing national price does not reflect the cost of an innovative device. Please include: which committee or officer is responsible for such decisions; the evidence required to support a proposal; and whether proposals of this kind are subject to an annual cut-off or window (for example within the annual planning or contracting round) or may be submitted and agreed in-year.

Where any of the above is already published, a link or reference is acceptable in place of a copy. My preferred format for the response is electronic (email or accessible document).

Our Response

1. NENC ICB do not specifically have a template that relates to this question as this would fall under Planning and commissioning of services (to include procurement and evaluation strategies and recommended bidder reports). This is described on our scheme of reservation and delegation <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/qm1pbayc/doc-1-nenc-icb-scheme-of-reservation-delegation-v9.pdf>

Clinical commissioning is supported by clinical conditions strategic plan, however, the funding and use of new technologies would be an enabler rather than the sole focus of planning any commissioning around this. A link to this plan can be found here:

https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/543h5kn2/clinical-conditions-strategic-plan-nenc-icb-2025_30-feb-25-final.pdf

2. Commissioning of services fall under multiple committee/ groups. The question is too broad a scope to identify a specific responsible committee/group. The ICB's scheme of reservation and delegation does, however, clarify specific areas of delegation and the link to the document is: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/qm1pbayc/doc-1-nenc-icb-scheme-of-reservation-delegation-v9.pdf>

NENC ICB's committee governance structure can be found here

<https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/pqhghmxd/doc-25-new-committee-structure-v1.jpeg>

3. NENC ICB does not hold a local policy to implement NICE guidance. If there are any national changes to the guidance a commissioning manager would propose the changes to the most appropriate committee. Please note, however, the ICB is a commissioner rather than a providing organisation.
4. This request could fall under multiple categories, the ICB's terms of reference documents can be found in our Governance Handbook: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/governance/governance-handbook/>
5. As noted above, membership is included within the terms of reference for each Committee <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/governance/governance-handbook/>
6. We are unable to provide as we have been unable to determine the relevant committee from the question.
7. We use template front cover sheets for committee reports funding and supporting evidence would be added on a case-by-case basis. Copies of these documents are attached.
8. Information on NENC ICB's financial limits can be found here: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/yb4pvz11/doc-2-nenc-icb-standing-financial-instructions-v4.pdf>

The prioritisation and scoring criteria as this would be handled on a case by case basis. We would use NHSE Digital technology assessment criteria (DTAC) and a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) to review any risks associated with the introduction of new technologies. The DTAC and DPIA template are attached.

9. The policy or standard operating procedure governing the assessment and funding of new and innovative technologies is detailed within multiple documents:

ICBP008 Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy: [confidentiality-and-data-protection-policy.pdf](#)

ICBP024 Information Security Policy: [information-security-policy.pdf](#)

ICBP033 Procurement Policy: [icbp033-procurement-policy-6.pdf](#)

ICBP055 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and approval Policy: [Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)

ICBSOP3 Data Protection Impact Assessment: attached

ICBSOP5 Use of Electrical Equipment: attached

10. On this occasion it is not possible 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; we do not commission in this way.

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**