

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-069

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

12 June 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 May 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following recorded information.

Context: In March 2018, Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (whose acute and community functions have since transferred to North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust) publicly committed to a package of alternative provision following the permanent closure of in-patient beds at the Ruth Lancaster James Cottage Hospital, Alston. That package, set out in the Alston Alliance Plan, included the use of two residential beds at Grisedale Croft Care Home, Alston, as NHS-designated reablement / intermediate-care beds, alongside a wider package of integrated community services.

This request asks NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, as successor commissioner to North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group, for the recorded information that documents what was commissioned to support that provision.

I would be grateful for the following.

1. Copies of any commissioning specifications, service-level agreements, contracts, or contract variations between (a) North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group and/or NHS North East

and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and (b) any provider, relating to NHS step-down, intermediate care, or reablement beds delivered at or in conjunction with Grisedale Croft Care Home, Alston, from 1 April 2018 to the date of this request.

2. Records of the funding, budget allocations, or contract values committed for the two NHS-designated reablement / intermediate-care beds at Grisedale Croft, broken down by financial year, from 1 April 2018 to the date of this request.
3. Copies of the referral pathways, eligibility criteria, and access procedures established for the NHS-designated beds at Grisedale Croft, including any subsequent updates or amendments, from 1 April 2018 to the date of this request.
4. Copies of any service reviews, performance reports, KPI reports, evaluation documents, or annual reports relating to the NHS-designated beds at Grisedale Croft, from 1 April 2018 to the date of this request.
5. Please confirm whether the commissioning arrangements for the two NHS-designated reablement / intermediate-care beds at Grisedale Croft remain in place as of the date of this request. If they have been varied, suspended, terminated, or transferred at any point since 1 April 2018, please supply the relevant decision records and the date of each change.
6. Copies of any correspondence between NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (or its predecessor North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group) and Westmorland and Furness Council, Cumbria County Council, or Cumberland Council concerning the future of the NHS-designated beds at Grisedale Croft, from 1 January 2023 to the date of this request.
7. Copies of any commissioning records relating to the wider Alston Alliance Plan service package – including enhanced community nursing, day services, rapid response services, and digital health monitoring at Grisedale Croft – from 1 April 2018 to the date of this request.

If any element of this request is unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me to discuss it before applying any exemption. Should the cost of compliance approach the section 12 limit, I am content to narrow individual questions rather than have the request refused in whole; please contact me to agree a refinement.

I would be grateful to receive the response electronically in a searchable format where possible – PDF, Word, or plain text.

Our Response

1. 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.
2. 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust.

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 the foundation trust: foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk.

3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1.
5. We have reviewed the ICB's contract management register and digital case management system and have not identified any records referring to Grisedale Croft Care Home. 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.

6. Please refer to the response to question 1.
7. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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**