

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-088

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

26 June 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 10 June 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, I would like to request the following information regarding bowel and bladder care for children and young people (under 18) within your ICB area:

1. Does your ICB currently commission a dedicated community bowel and bladder (continence) service for children and young people?

If yes, please provide:

- a. The name of the service and which trust or provider is commissioned to provide this service.
- b. The age range covered.
- c. Whether the service includes Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 continence care.
- d. The date the service was first commissioned.
- e. The referral pathway for children to access any continence services.

If no:

- a. . Are there any plans to commission such a service?
- b. . How are children with continence needs currently supported in your ICB area?

2. Does your ICB collect or hold data on children presenting with bowel and bladder issues (e.g. constipation, urinary retention, faecal incontinence) in A&E or primary care settings? If so, how is this data coded and classified?
3. Are children who present to A&E with abdominal pain or constipation routinely referred to a community continence service? If so, which service?
4. Does your ICB hold data on the number of children accessing continence support services in the past three years (e.g. referrals, community appointments, home care)? If so, please provide figures.
5. Has your ICB carried out a local needs assessment or gap analysis relating to children's continence care in the past five years? If yes, please provide a copy or summary.

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. NENC ICB currently commissions a dedicated community bowel and bladder (continence) service for children and young people in some ICB places.

Service details are noted below:

NHS Foundation Trust (FT)	Service provided
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT (CDDFT)	Yes
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT (NTHFT)	Yes (Joint CYP and Adults)
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT (NuTH)	No (Adults only)
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT (STHFT)	Yes (Joint CYP & Adults)
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT (NHCFT)	Yes (Joint CYP & Adults)
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT (NCIC)	Yes
Gateshead Health NHS FT (GHFT)	Yes
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT (STSFT)	No (Adults only)

Details of services provided are detailed in the table below:

NHS Foundation Trust (FT)	Details of service provided
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT (CDDFT)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Paediatric continence service b. 0-19 years c. Service specification doesn't clarify tiers, levels 1 and 2 are described d. Commissioned pre ICB e. Please see attached service specification
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT (NTHFT)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continence Pathway Outcomes (Including Continence & Urinary) b. Doesn't state age range c. Doesn't state tier d. 2012

	e. Open referral. Self-referral, healthcare professionals and social services.
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT (NuTH)	There are no plans to commission a service. Children with continence needs are supported by a hospital-based service.
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT (STHFT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continence Service b. All ages – the service will be provided for all ages from 3 years upwards for both genders. Occasionally under 3 years may be judged on an individual basis. c. Doesn't state tier d. 2015 e. Open referral, self-referral, healthcare professionals, social services and professionals involved in the care/education of a child
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT (NHCFT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continence b. All ages c. Doesn't state tier d. Commissioned 2020 e. Not stated
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT (NCIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. North Cumbria - Policy for Continence Assessment and Provision of Containment Products for Children and Young People b. All ages (under 19) c. Doesn't state tier d. Commissioned pre ICB e. Open referral, self-referral, healthcare professionals, social services and professionals involved in the care/ education of a child
Gateshead Health NHS FT (GHFT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Children's Bladder & Bowel b. All Ages to 19 c. Tier 2 d. 2023 e. Health Professionals (Health Visitor, School Nurse, GP)
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT (STSFT)	There are no plans to commission a service. Children with continence needs are supported by a hospital-based service.

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 the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 email addresses for those foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. NENC ICB has not carried out a local needs assessment or gap analysis relating to children's continence care in the past five years.

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**