



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-019

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
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By Email

13 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

Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am requesting the current or most recent recorded information held by the ICB in relation to ADHD and autism diagnostic assessment services, including services delivered by both NHS and independent sector providers.

To minimise burden, please provide the latest final version of each document or report requested below, and please do not search emails unless the information requested is not held in any formal document, report, paper, presentation, policy, guidance note, dashboard, assessment or board / committee paper.

If no single document exists for any question below, please confirm this and provide the recorded information in whatever existing form it is held.

Where information is held separately, please provide it separately for each of the following pathways:

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

NorthEastandNorthCumbriaNHS 

NENC_NHS 

- a. Adult ADHD
- b. Children and young people's ADHD
- c. Adult autism
- d. Children and young people's autism

Waiting times and performance

1. The current documented waiting time targets, trajectories, expected maximum waits, or other planning assumptions used by the ICB for referral to first diagnostic assessment.
2. The most recent routinely produced performance report or dashboard showing actual average waiting times from referral to first diagnostic assessment, broken down by commissioned provider where readily available.
3. The most recent routinely produced report or dashboard showing the number of individuals currently on the waiting list, broken down by commissioned provider where readily available.
4. Any current metadata, glossary or methodology note used by the ICB to define or calculate the waiting time and waiting list measures referred to in questions 2 and 3, if held.

Demand, capacity and planning

1. The most recent final paper, report, analysis or dashboard used by the ICB to assess demand, capacity, and the impact on waiting times when deciding how much ADHD and/or autism diagnostic assessment activity to commission or fund.
2. The current plan, recovery plan, transformation plan, service improvement plan, Service Development and Improvement Plan, or equivalent document relating to reducing ADHD and/or autism waiting times and/or increasing diagnostic assessment capacity.
3. The most recent document, if any, identifying any mismatch between estimated referral demand and commissioned diagnostic assessment capacity for any of the above pathways, and setting out how the ICB intends to address that position.

Medium term planning framework

The most recent document, paper or report that sets out how the ICB is meeting the requirements in the NHS Medium Term Planning Framework 2026/27 to 2028/29 to optimise existing resources to reduce long waits for autism and ADHD assessments and to increase community health service capacity to meet growth in demand.

National ADHD taskforce

The most recent final briefing, paper, action plan, implementation document or committee paper held by the ICB that discusses the findings or recommendations of the independent National ADHD Taskforce report, including any document setting out how the ICB intends to respond to or implement those recommendations locally.

Patient choice

1. The current policy, guidance, briefing or instruction used by the ICB to ensure patient choice operates for ADHD and autism referrals, including any document used by referrers, triage teams, referral management services, or commissioning staff.
2. The most recent recorded assessment, analysis, briefing or decision paper, if any, considering whether commissioning different volumes of activity from different providers delivering comparable ADHD or autism diagnostic assessment services has the practical effect of

constraining patient choice, including by limiting capacity or creating materially different waiting times between providers.

Equality and quality

The most recent equality impact assessment, quality impact assessment, patient safety assessment, risk assessment, or similar document relating to ADHD and/or autism waiting list management, commissioning decisions, or service capacity.

Governance and oversight

The single most recent final board, committee, programme or senior management paper that discusses ADHD and/or autism waiting times, capacity, provider activity levels, or actions to improve access.

ICB reorganisation / cluster arrangements

If the ICB is merging, clustering, being reorganised, or operating through a joint commissioning arrangement with another ICB or cluster, please confirm:

- a. the name of the new or successor body or cluster arrangement;
- b. whether responsibility for ADHD and autism commissioning, service planning, or waiting list management sits wholly or partly at that level; and
- c. please provide the equivalent recorded information requested above where it is held at that level rather than solely by the current ICB.

If any of the above information is already publicly available, please provide the precise link.

If any part of this request is considered likely to exceed the cost limit under section 12 of the Act, please provide the parts that can be answered within the limit and provide advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act as to how any remaining part may be refined.

If any information is withheld, please identify the specific exemption relied upon and, where applicable, your reasoning on the public interest test.

I look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days as required by section 10(1) of the Act.

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.

Waiting times and performance

1. 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 mental health 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 contacts for those foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

2. Please refer to the response to 'Waiting times and performance' section, question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to 'Waiting times and performance' section, question 1.
4. NENC ICB does not hold copies of metadata, glossary or methodology notes to define or calculate the waiting time and waiting list measures.

Demand, capacity and planning

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. Please refer to the response to 'Demand, capacity and planning' section, question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to 'Demand, capacity and planning' section, question 1.

Medium term planning framework

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.

National ADHD taskforce

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.

Patient choice

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. Please refer to the response to 'Patient choice' section, question 1.

Equality and quality

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.

Governance and oversight

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.

ICB reorganisation / cluster arrangements

- a. NENC ICB has not changed and remains as North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
- b. Responsibility remains with the ICB with oversight provided the Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Individual Packages of Care Team.
- c. Please refer to the response to 'ICB reorganisation / cluster arrangements' section, question b.

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**