

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-042

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By Email

14 May 2024

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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 22 April 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I'm requesting the following specific information, specifically in your ICB:

1. The current budget allocation for Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) services, split by adults' and children's therapy.
2. Historical funding and budgeting data for SLT services over the past 10 years.
3. Employment statistics for SLT professionals, including regional distribution and split by adults' and children's therapy.
4. The band and years of experience distribution among SLT professionals.
5. Data on the number of patients currently receiving SLT services, with a breakdown by age group and condition.
6. Plans or strategies in place to address NHS SLT workforce shortages.
7. Measures to improve access to SLT services in rural and underserved areas.
8. Percentage of patients with internet access.
9. Language demographics of patients, particularly the percentage with English as a first language, and a breakdown of other primary languages.
10. Use of technology and telehealth in SLT services, including specific digital solutions.
11. Budget allocations for digital technologies within the NHS, specifically for SLT.

12. Average caseload per speech and language therapist per day and per week.
13. Average team size of SLTs in clinical settings.
14. Average working hours per week for SLT professionals.
15. Statistics on job satisfaction levels among NHS SLT professionals.
16. Main challenges faced by SLT professionals.
17. Support programs for the mental health and well-being of SLT professionals.
18. Average treatment period for different patient groups, split by adults and children, and therapy types.
19. Treatment frequency (in sessions/week) for inpatient and outpatient settings, split by adults and children.
20. Average wait time for initial SLT assessment.
21. Current waiting list for SLT services.
22. Number of patients referred to and treated by SLT services in the last year.
23. Methods for monitoring and evaluating treatment outcomes.
24. Availability of patient support or educational programs for SLT.
25. Regional comparison of patient satisfaction with SLT services.

Please provide this information in a digital format (PDF/Excel) via email.

If my request is too broad or unclear, I would be grateful for any advice or guidance you could provide to help me refine it. I understand that under the Act, you are required to respond to my request within 20 working days of receiving it. If you anticipate any delays or issues in fulfilling this request, please let me know as soon as possible. I would also like to request a waiver of any fees associated with the processing of this request.

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.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought for questions 1-20 and 22-25. However, we have determined the records are held by NHS Foundation Trust Hospitals 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 hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & 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 & 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

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk

In response to question 21, the current wait list for SLT services is 6,035. This is based on the national Community Waiting List submission across North East and North Cumbria ICB. Please note, that this only includes providers who submit the national Community Waiting List.

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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer