

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–207

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 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 24 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 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please could you provide the following information regarding the outpatient musculoskeletal physiotherapy services that are currently contracted by your ICB (e.g. following patient self-referral, GP referral or referral from a hospital physician).

1. How many NHS trusts are currently contracted by your ICB to provide musculoskeletal physiotherapy services (e.g. following patient self-referral, GP referral or referral from a hospital physician)?
2. For each NHS trust, what is the name of the trust and of the musculoskeletal physiotherapy service/s they provide?
3. How many independent providers are currently contracted by your ICB to provide musculoskeletal physiotherapy services (e.g. following patient self-referral, GP referral or referral from a hospital physician)?
4. For each independent provider, what is the name of the provider and the name of the musculoskeletal physiotherapy service/s they provide?
5. For both musculoskeletal physiotherapy services contracted with NHS trusts and musculoskeletal physiotherapy services contracted with independent providers, the total number of patients assessed in each of the calendar years given.

Calendar year	Total number of patients assessed in calendar year	
	Via services contracted with NHS trusts	Via services contracted with independent providers
2020		
2021		
2022		
2023		
2024		
2025		

6. For both musculoskeletal physiotherapy services contracted with NHS trusts and musculoskeletal physiotherapy services contracted with independent providers, the total expenditure on musculoskeletal physiotherapy services in each of the calendar years given.

Calendar year	Total spend on MSK physiotherapy services	
	Via services contracted with NHS trusts	Via services contracted with independent providers
2020		
2021		
2022		
2023		
2024		
2025		

If any part of this request is unclear, or if responding in full would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Act, I would be grateful if you could contact me to narrow the request.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB

- Seven (7) NHS trusts are currently contracted by NENC ICB to provide musculoskeletal physiotherapy services.
- Details of the trusts and their services are:
 - North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust – MSK Physiotherapy
 - Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Joint Musculoskeletal and Pain Service (Northumberland) and North Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (North Tyneside)
 - Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (Newcastle and Gateshead)
 - South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust – Sunderland Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (Sunderland)
 - County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – County Durham Integrated Musculoskeletal Service
 - North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – North Tees and Hartlepool integrated MSK
- One (1) independent provider is currently contracted by NENC ICB to provide musculoskeletal physiotherapy services.

4. Cora Health is the independent provider. The service name is South Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service.
5. 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 all the requested information. The total number of patients assessed by Cora Health (South Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service) is noted below, along with Northumberland and North Tyneside figures.

Calendar year	Via services contracted with NHS trusts	Via services contracted with independent providers
Joint Musculoskeletal and Pain Service (Northumberland)		
2020	Information not held	-
2021	Information not held	-
2022	Information not held	-
2023/24	2870	-
2024/25	3356	-
2025/26	3810	-
North Tyneside Integrated Musculoskeletal Service (North Tyneside)		
2020	Information not held	-
2021	Information not held	-
2022	Information not held	-
2023	Information not held	-
2024/25	1787	-
2025/26	1785	-
Cora Health		
2020	-	FY not available (6,362 Aug-Dec 2020)
2021	-	18,413
2022	-	16,406
2023	-	19,328
2024	-	19,520
2025	-	19,329

We have determined that the information not held by the ICB 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 contacts for all foundation trusts.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
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	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

6. Expenditure on musculoskeletal physiotherapy services is attached. Please note that the ICB accounts are reported in financial years, April to March, and the information has been provided in this format.

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**