

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-098

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By Email

5 June 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 Freedom of Information (FOI) request received by the North East and the North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) on 1 June 2024.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees).

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information held by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

"We are aware of the NHS England FASP 20-week scan guidance document. There is no requirement to archive images of the foetal cardiac protocol views. However, we are aware there is disparity amongst NHS hospital trusts nationally when congenital heart defects are not identified at this scan. We understand some hospital trusts don't retain foetal cardiac images, some do, and some retain video clips, and some retain both. There doesn't seem to be any consistency.

We have been advised by NHS England that they do not hold the following information as it is “granular”. We have been advised to approach each of the ICS/ICBs in England. We've been advised the regional CHD networks also do not hold the information.

Our questions are:

1. Which hospital trusts within your ICS perform antenatal screening, including the 20-week foetal anomaly scan?
2. When congenital heart defects are not identified during screening at the 20-week foetal anomaly scan:

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- a. Which hospital trusts within your ICS do not retain the foetal cardiac views?
 - b. For how long has each hospital trust within your ICS not retained the foetal cardiac views?
3. When congenital heart defects are not identified during screening at the 20-week foetal anomaly scan;
- a. Which hospitals trusts within your ICS do retain the foetal cardiac views?
 - b. For how long has each hospital trust within your ICS retained the foetal cardiac views?
 - c. Concerning the trusts which do currently retain cardiac views when congenital heart defects are not identified, please clarify whether these trusts retain still images or video clips or both".

Our Response

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 that 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 acute hospitals to help you 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

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 make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Information Governance Officer using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer