

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–347

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

9 December 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 27 November 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

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information for all Primary Care Networks (PCNs) within the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) area for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (to current date):

1. A list of PCNs that have overspent or underspent on their Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) budgets.
2. For each PCN identified, please provide:
 - a. The total ARRS budget allocation for the relevant financial year;
 - b. The total expenditure incurred;
 - c. Whether the PCN overspent or underspent; and
 - d. The amount by which the budget was exceeded or underspent.
3. Please also provide any available explanation or clarification regarding:
 - a. How overspends have occurred, given that I believe the ARRS payments are drawn down to cover actual salary costs and budgets are capped in line with national funding limits; and

- b. The factors contributing to any underspends (for example, recruitment delays, unfilled posts, or other operational issues).

If available, please provide the information in a tabular format (for example, Excel or CSV). I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request and provide your response within the statutory 20 working days.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested. Responses to all questions are detailed in the spreadsheet attached.

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**