

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–136

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

23 June 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 June 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. Could you please provide the following data regarding NHS-funded egg freezing and fertility preservation treatments within the care board over the last three available financial years or calendar years (whichever is easiest). Specifically, I would like to request:

1. *Total Number of Patients:* The total number of patients who had egg freezing cycles funded by the NHS, broken down by year.
2. *Demographic Breakdown:* Of those funded patients, the number who received funding under the category of gender-affirming care (transgender men and non-binary individuals) versus those who received funding for other medical reasons (such as oncology or other benign medical conditions affecting cisgender women).
3. *Total Financial Spend:* The total financial expenditure by the organization on these funded fertility preservation cycles, broken down by year and, if possible, by the categories mentioned in question 2.
4. *(Only if possible / costs allow:) Referral Success Rates:* The total number of funding requests (Individual Funding Requests or standard pathway referrals) received for egg freezing for gender-affirming care versus other medical conditions, alongside the number of these requests that were approved and rejected.

If any of this data is withheld due to small patient numbers (to protect patient anonymity under Section 40 of the FOI Act), please provide the figures rounded to the nearest five, or indicate that the figure is "fewer than five" rather than withholding the data entirely. If you require any clarification on this request, please let me know. I look forward to receiving your response within the statutory 20 working days.

Our Response

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 on the total number of patients who received egg freezing cycles 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 those 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/

2. The ICB does not hold this information, providers who carry out the preservation may be able to inform on these demographics.
3. Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for finance spend. To caveat the response, the ICB holds and has provided costs and activity split between a few categories, but the ICB does not know how many patients it equates to, e.g. one patient could have had several cycles, but it will show up as additional separates lines of activity.
4. The table below summarises prior approval and IFRs for fertility preservation:

Financial Year	Requests	Requests approved	Requests declined
2023/24	4	3	1
2024/25	9	9	0
2025/26	15	12	3

Information does not differentiate between referral reasons; this level of information may be held by the providers carrying out these procedures.

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**