



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference PA\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ICB554

Your Reference ICB554

NECS - John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: (0191) 301 1300
Fax: (0191) 374 4102
E-mail: Necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

24 September 2023

By Email to

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 25 September 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (NENC ICB). 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.

Request and response

The word document responses to my questions are contradicted by the redacted minutes.

The minutes provided are spartan and there must have been many more public records of the discussions that have taken place and agreements made regarding these two practices and NPC, please provide them.

The Redacted Minutes provided in the FOI response were subject to review and ratification. This has now taken place. A ratified copy is attached, this addresses the inaccuracies in terminology and language.

The decision to subcontract the back office practice functions to NPC is a commercial decision made by the contract holder (Northumberland Health, the merged practices Felton and Widdrington under one single contract).

The Role of NENC ICB is to provide guidance in this commercial subcontracting process. The minutes provided supported and confirmed this process had been followed. No further approval or decisions were required.

The original PID submitted by the doctors cannot possibly still be relevant as they are now employees.

NPC has now taken over these two practices completely so any proposal for the new surgery would be coming from NPC, a different legal entity from the doctors. Given the time delay that has occurred this would require new rent valuations to be conducted, considered and agreed by NPC and the CICB.

Please send me copies of all these new documents and agreements.

No further changes or applications are required for the proposed New Felton premises. The application was made by the clinical contract holders, who still remain the contract holders for that clinical contract. They will be signatories to the lease for the new premises.

Extract from FOI redacted minutes, no dates provided.

The next stage will be for the Primary Care Team to liaise with NPC to determine whether the new build will happen, as well as the Widdrington surgery building requiring a review on any refurbishments.

It was agreed that a discussion regarding primary care commissioned services, the subcontracting of enhanced services and the mechanism for doing so, would need to be addressed at an appropriate time with NPC with regard to their subcontracting of Northumberland Health.

ACTION NPBDG/2023/67/03: Primary Care Team to include a discussion regarding primary care commissioned services, the subcontracting of enhanced services and the mechanism for doing so, at an appropriate time with NPC with regard to Northumberland Health.

DECISION:

- The PBDG accepted the paper and the recommendation of NPC taking over the contract for Northumberland Health.***
- The Director of Place approved the processes undertaken to manage the contractual requirement for service delivery.***

It is clear from the above NPC are taking over the contract for Northumberland Health.

The doctors are now only employees of NPC and take no part in the management or operation of these two surgeries.

Can you confirm who will be legally signing a lease with ASSURA for the new Felton surgery if it was to go ahead.

As stated above the language used in the draft minutes was incorrect and the ratified copy addresses the inaccuracies in terminology and language. The partners are still the contract holders and will be on the lease, additional GP's can be added as and when they join the practice.

Yet again the CICB and NPC have failed to engage at all with FPC, a major stakeholder, as they own the land for the proposed new surgery.

Please see the attached pdf of the ratified meeting minutes.

Please note that some information has been redacted as it was not in scope of the request.

In line 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 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 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

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

Paul Atkinson

Paul Atkinson
Information Governance Officer