

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-192

NECS – John Snow House
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Durham
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By Email

1 August 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 request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 31 July 2024 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, 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the below information please:

1. How much money have GP practices within the ICS spent on EHR (Electronic Health Record software) over the last 12 months? If this information is available per practice (e.g. in a spreadsheet) please that would be great, if not a total sum of all GP practices in the ICS is fine.
2. More broadly, how much money have GP practices within the ICS spent on any type of software in the last 12 months? As per question 1, if this information is available per GP practice, please that would be great, and if not a total sum of all GP practices in the ICS is fine.
3. How many full-time employees (FTE) does the ICB directly employ who have a Digital, Data or Technology (DDaT) role?

I understand that under the Freedom of Information Act, I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request. If my request is too broad or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me so that I can refine my request.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

1. 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 the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

GP practices are independent contractors. In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we advise that you contact practices directly.

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested. However, this is available within the NENC ICB publication scheme which can be accessed on the ICB website: [Publications scheme | North East and North Cumbria NHS \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/publications-scheme) or please refer to our previous related request, our ref: FOI ICB 24-088 from the NENC ICB FOI Disclosure Log at: [foi-icb-24-088-response-letter.pdf \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/foi-icb-24-088-response-letter.pdf)

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.:

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 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 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 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

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer