

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-492

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

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

18 March 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 17 March 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, 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).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

As you will be aware, the recently released Wheelchair Alliance report has highlighted the postcode lottery experienced by wheelchair users, and the many long waits. I am interested in the underlying data.

Please provide the following information separately for each of the wheelchair services in your area. This data is 'essential' or 'basic' information relating to each referral and should be easily extracted from the relevant Case Management System, Electronic Patient Record, or similar.

Please feel free to provide the data in alternative formats, e.g. an Excel spreadsheet, if appropriate.

1. Adults

- a. How many open referrals does the service have for ADULTS?
- b. Of those open referrals, how many have been open for LESS than 18 weeks?
- c. Of those open referrals, how many have open for MORE than 18 weeks?
- d. Of those open referrals, how many have been open for MORE than 52 weeks?

- e. Of those open referrals, how many are 'low need' (per NHS Wheelchair Data Collection definition)?
- f. Of those open referrals, how many are 'medium need'?
- g. Of those open referrals, how many are 'high need'?
- h. Of those open referrals, how many are 'specialist need'?
- i. Of those open referrals, how many are for powered wheelchairs?

2. Children/Young People

- a. How many open referrals does the service have for CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE?
- b. Of those open referrals, how many have been open for LESS than 18 weeks?
- c. Of those open referrals, how many have been open for MORE than 18 weeks?
- d. Of those open referrals, how many have been open for MORE than 52 weeks?
- e. Of those open referrals, how many are 'low need' (per NHS Wheelchair Data Collection definition)?
- f. Of those open referrals, how many are 'medium need'?
- g. Of those open referrals, how many are 'high need'?
- h. Of those open referrals, how many are 'specialist need'?
- i. Of those open referrals, how many are for powered wheelchairs?

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. However, wheelchair data is published on a quarterly basis and is publicly available at [Statistics » Wheelchair Data Collection](#)

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