

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–515

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

16 March 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 10 March 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 would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

For each of the questions below please provide any relevant policies and information, including how long the policy has been in place and/or if a policy is being planned, considered, or is potentially changing in the future:

1. Do you either routinely fund, or provide criteria-based access to funding for, weight-loss medications such as GLP-1 receptor agonists or dual GIP/GLP-1 agonists (for example semaglutide, tirzepatide) when used specifically for weight management/obesity?
2. If you do provide criteria-based access, please provide details of the criteria (for example BMI thresholds, presence of weight-related comorbidities, requirement for participation in a structured weight-management programme), or tell me where this information can be found.
3. If you provide either criteria-based access or routine funding, is this only for patients with obesity and comorbidities, or is access provided more widely (for example overweight with high-risk features)?
4. If you provide criteria-based funding, is any form of prior approval or Individual Funding Request (IFR) required before initiating treatment?

5. How long has the current policy on pharmacological weight-loss treatment been in place, and are there any planned or pending changes to this policy (for example in response to new national guidance on specific drugs such as tirzepatide)?

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. Yes, NENC ICB does provide criteria-based access to funding for, weight-loss medications such as GLP-1 receptor agonists or dual GIP/GLP-1 agonists.
2. 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 publicly available on the ICB's website: [Weight loss drugs – information for patients](#).

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.

3. Access is currently only prescribing in primary care using NHS England interim commissioning guidance cohorts and secondary care using the criteria above.
4. For primary care prescribing for 2025/26 utilised prior approval system to support monitoring and payments.
5. The current policy has been in place since July 2025 and will adjust in June 2026 to take into consideration cohort 2 criteria as per national guidance ([PRN01879-interim-commissioning-guidance-implementation-of-the-nice-technology-appraisal-ta1026-and-the-NICE-fu.pdf](#)).

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**