NHS
North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB 26–287

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 535 4288
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

17 September 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 7 September 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

1. Please provide me with your evaluation of your ICB's winter plan for 2025-2026.
2. Please provide the winter plan for 2026-2027.

Our Response

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.
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, it is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication. It is considered that it is reasonable to withhold the requested information prior to publication because the winter plan 2026-2027 is scheduled to be taken to the ICB's board on 30 September 2026 and will then be publicly available on the ICB's website: ICB Board meetings| NENC ICB.

   We believe that following the established date of publication is sensible, in line with accepted practices, and fair to all concerned. It is acceptable to manage the availability of this information by planning and controlling its publication, as the timetable for publication enables internal consideration of the information prior to its public release.

When considering the application of this exemption we are required to assess the public interest in withholding or disclosing the requested information. There is evidently a public interest in the winter plan however, this is best served by preventing the disclosure of that information ahead of the ICB's predetermined timescale. It is considered that the public interest is to enable the ICB to finalise, approve and publish this information in the near future. We would therefore argue the public interest is adequately served by the existing publication date, pursuant to the ICB's existing intentions.

Therefore, on this occasion, we consider the public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in providing the requested data at this time.

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