

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-482

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

9 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 20 February 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

Could I please make a freedom of information request for the following information.

1. Has the integrated care system employed any management consultancy firms in 2025-26 for work to improve its financial position? If so, please share:
 - a. the name of all management consultancy firms employed.
 - b. expected spend on each management consultancy firm in 2025-26.
 - c. whether each firm's work is expected to continue in 2026-27, and if so, expected spend on each in 2026-27.
2. Has the integrated care board employed any management consultancy firms in 2025-26 for work to improve its financial position? If so, please share:
 - a. the name of all management consultancy firms employed.
 - b. expected spend on each management consultancy firm in 2025-26.
 - c. whether each firm's work is expected to continue in 2026-27, and if so, expected spend on each in 2026-27.

Please let me know if any clarification or refinement is required. Otherwise, I look forward to a response within the statutory 20 working days.

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 requested.

1. The ICB did not employ any management consultancy firms in 2025/26 to improve the financial position of either the ICB or the ICS. The ICB cannot comment on whether any other organisations within the ICS, for example relevant NHS Foundation Trust providers within the ICS may have employed the use of such management consultancy firms to improve their financial position. That would require a separate approach to those individual organisations.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI contacts for those foundation trusts mentioned in our response to question 1, should you wish to redirect your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

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**