

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–374

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 December 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 on 10 December 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, 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:

1. Do you either routinely fund, or provide criteria-based access to funding for any hand surgery procedures that may be considered partly aesthetic (e.g. removal of benign lumps, ganglion cysts, Dupuytren's contracture with mild deformity, trigger finger release or scar revision)?
2. If you do provide criteria-based access, please provide details of the criteria, or indicate where this information can be found.
3. Are there specific conditions or functional thresholds that must be met before funding is approved (e.g. pain, impairment of hand function, or occupational impact)?
4. Is prior approval required before listing patients for such procedures?
5. How long has the current policy been in place, and are there any planned or pending changes to this policy?

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. The attached Value Based Clinical Commissioning Policy (ICP040 – VBCC Policy (v14.0)) details funding for hand surgery procedures. The benign skin lesions policy is on page 36, the trigger finger policy on page 111 and the Dupuytren's policy on pages 89 to 91.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Those policies which are Prior Approval policies do require criteria to be met. The policies marked as IFR are not routinely commissioned and an IFR request is required.
5. Updates to the VBCC policy are detailed on the document history section of the policy.

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**