

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–267

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

8 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 25 August 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 am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about male fertility services commissioned by your board. I am sending the same request to every NHS Care Board and NHS Trust.

Please provide the following, for the calendar years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date, unless stated otherwise.

1. Your current policy on NHS funded fertility treatment, including the number of IVF cycles funded per couple and the eligibility criteria applied.
2. The number of NHS funded IVF cycles carried out each year, and the total NHS spend.
3. The number of semen analyses carried out in each year, and the median wait in days from GP referral to result.
4. Whether you commission a dedicated male fertility service or male pathway, and the number of men referred to a urologist or andrologist for fertility investigation in each year.
5. The median wait in days from GP referral to first fertility clinic appointment.
6. The size of the urology waiting list in each year, with the number of individuals waiting over 18 weeks for an appointment with a urology department, and the number waiting over 52 weeks, by trust or region.

7. The number of established consultant urologist posts, the number vacant, and the total spend on locum cover in each year.

Where held, please break each figure down by age band (under 30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-45, 46 to 54, 55 to 64, 65 to 74, and 75 and over), by ethnicity, and by index of multiple deprivation decile. If any breakdown is not recorded, please say so.

Please supply the data as a spreadsheet, Excel or CSV, rather than as a PDF. If any part of this request would exceed the cost limit, please treat each numbered question as a separate request, tell me which part is affected, and advise how it could be narrowed, in line with the duty to assist under section 16 of the Act.

Our Response

1. NENC ICB's Value Based Clinical Commissioning Policy includes our current policy to date under "Assisted Reproduction Treatments" and the document history at the end of the policy details any changes made over the years. The policy is publicly available on the ICB's website: [icbp040-value-based-commissioning-policy-14.pdf](#). Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.

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 on the number of IVF cycles funded per couple.

2. 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
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to questions 1 and 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.
6. Please refer to the response to question 2.

Please note, we have supplied the response as a PDF letter as there is no data held for the calendar years 2021 to 2026 (year to date).

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**