

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–052

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

28 May 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 6 May 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 previously submitted a request regarding LES data (reference: FOI ICB 26–026). I would like to ask a further question in relation to the variation to the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) published on 30 April 2026 by NHS England.

1. Please could you confirm whether your Integrated Care Board intends to submit any requests for Local Variation Arrangements (DES LV) for 2026/27.
2. If applicable, I would also appreciate any available information on:
 - a. Whether any such requests have already been submitted or are planned
 - b. Which Primary Care Networks (PCNs), if any, are expected to be included
 - c. The current status of any proposed Local Variation Arrangements
3. In addition, where requests have been submitted or are planned, I would be grateful if you could provide any available business logic or supporting guidance similar to QOF/DES specifications. In particular, this would include:
 - a. The specific measure(s)
 - b. The relevant patient cohort(s)
 - c. Detailed business logic (in a QOF-like format), including:

- Dataset specification
- Patient/cohort selection criteria
- Clinical (SNOMED) codes or code clusters
- Indicator rules

- d. Reporting templates
- e. Funding allocation for each measure

4. If this information is not yet finalised, I would be grateful for any indicative plans or discussions available.

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 have requested.

1. As the guidance is new, the ICB has not yet had the opportunity to explore the benefits that the new guidance potentially brings. As neighbourhood health planning progresses in the coming months, we will explore the flexibilities the new guidance offers if it's in the best interests of patients.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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**