

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–285

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

13 November 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 17 October 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to find out how many contact orders the ICB has applied for to restrict visitation rights on families of a protected party.

Please answer the following questions:

1. How many applications to the Court of Protection have you made per year, in the past five years (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2025), asking the court to impose contact restrictions on family members of a protected party?
2. If possible, could this be broken down by category of mental impairment:
 - a. a protected party with learning disabilities and autism who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family
 - b. a protected party living with dementia who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family
 - c. a protected party living with a mental impairment other than a) or b) who may lack the capacity to make decisions about contact with family

To clarify, we are interested in the number of applications made, not the number of people per application.

If you are unable to provide details of applications asking the court to impose contact restrictions for the category of family members, please provide details for all applications asking the court to impose contact restrictions between a protected party and a person(s)"

If you do not provide the information requested, you must explain the legal basis for the information being withheld. If you decline part of the request due to information being sensitive, the request being too vague, or reasonable cost being exceeded, you must still provide the part you can fulfil.

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. NENC ICB has identified 430 Court of Protection requests in the last 5 years, in which the court was asked to impose contact restrictions on family members of a protected party. This is broken down in the table below:

Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
COP DOLS	25	26	30	80	26
COP	8	11	15	23	16
S21a	15	30	40	43	42

Please note this following detail:

- This only relates to new applications each year (ongoing cases/top ups may include COPDOL renewals).
 - This only includes cases clearly identified as either a COP, COPOL or S21a (and will not include all S117, best interests, placement advice, etc. if not clearly stated).
 - this will include any legal cases that were going outwith the process.
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, we have estimated that to provide you with the required information, would exceed the cost limit of £450 for the NHS as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

S.12(1) of the FOIA provides that a public authority is not obliged to respond to a request for information if the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes.

It is estimated that it would averagely take a member of staff approximately 5 minutes to obtain the requested information from the Broadcare system. Allocating 5 minutes per transaction, the NENC ICB estimates that 430 records x 5 minutes = 2150 minutes divided by 60 = 36 hours to extract the level of detail requested from our Broadcare system. NENC ICB is therefore unable to provide the requested information within the prescribed limit.

Based on the number of hours (36) at a rate of £25 per hour the estimated cost of providing the information is £900. Should you wish to proceed we will be able to comply with your request

upon receipt of payment. Alternatively, you may wish to reduce the scope of your request so that it comes in under the appropriate limit.

To note, the Broadcare system (All Age Continuing Care) currently reports 3141 individuals residing in non-residential settings; these are community or private residencies. To provide a full response we would have to review these individual case files.

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**