

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–186

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

8 August 2024

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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 24 July 2024 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, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am seeking information about your health system. To better understand your digital infrastructure, including your capabilities and degree of integration, can you please tell me:

1. Are your data systems between primary, community, and secondary care integrated, and if not, do you have plans to integrate them?
2. Do you have a baseline mapping of your digital infrastructure in place? If it is not already in place, are you building one?
3. Do you have a public facing digital strategy?
4. Do you use patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) processes or technology?
5. Do you employ the following roles in your health system? If yes, approximately how many?
 - Chief System Integration Officer
 - Director of Digital Products
 - Director of Analytics
 - Digital Lead/Director
 - Director of Partnerships
 - Head/Director of Digital Solutions

- Head/Director of Digital Innovation
- Head/Director of Digital Transformation
- Head/Director of System Strategy
- Head/Director of Integration
- Head/Director of Transformation
- Head/Director of System Partnerships
- Data Scientist
- Data Analyst
- AI Prompt Engineer – or any roles (in-house or outsourced) focused on using AI.
- Head/Director of Data Science/Artificial Intelligence
- Other roles related to innovation and/or transformation.

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. The ICB is a commissioning organisation and we do not hold/own those data systems. Therefore, we do not carry out "integration".
2. There is no baseline mapping of the digital infrastructure in place. NENC ICB is not building one.
3. There is a public facing digital strategy. The link to the document is: https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/0t3leogc/nenc-ics_digital-data-and-technology-strategy_2023-26_final.pdf
4. NENC ICB does not use patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU) processes or technology
5. No, the ICB does not employ any of the specific roles listed.

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 Senior 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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
 Wycliffe House
 Water Lane
 Wilmslow
 Cheshire

SK9 5AF

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer