

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–430

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

5 February 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 21 January 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 was hoping that you might be able to provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Non-contract activity (NCA) expenditure for all NHS services

1. For each of the financial years 2022/23; 2023/24; 2024/25 the amount spent by the ICB on non-contract activity (NCA) on non-NHS (private) providers of all NHS services.

Budgets and spend on ophthalmology services

2. For each of the financial years 2022/23; 2023/24; 2024/25 the total amount budgeted for ophthalmology services at the start of the financial year.
3. For each of the financial years 2022/23; 2023/24; 2024/25 the total amount spent on ophthalmology services at the end of the financial year.

**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. Amount spent by the ICB on non-contract activity (NCA) on non-NHS (private) providers of all NHS services.

Financial year	Actual (£m)
2022/23	20.4
2023/24	21.2
2024/25	28.9

Notes:

- The costs above show what flowed through the ICBs non-contracted activity cost centres in each year.
- The actual figure represents the actual value it would have been under Payment by Results (PbR) rules, but the ICB has block arrangements with its NHS Foundation Trust providers.
- Therefore, they may not have been paid for any activity over the plan.
- Similarly, the plan represents the plan in SLAM (Service Level Agreement Monitoring), whereas the ICB budgets at an overall contract level.

2. Total budgeted and actual spend for ophthalmic services:

Year	Plan (£m)	Actual (£m)
2022/23	76.2	96.1
2023/24	114.7	141.9
2024/25	142	148.5

Notes:

- The above shows planned and actual spend by the ICB on Ophthalmic services for the last 3 financial years.
- Responsibility for commissioning general ophthalmic services transferred to the ICB from NHS England on 1 April 2023.
- The figures provided therefore include these services for 2023/24 and 2024/25 but not for 2022/23.
- To allow a comparison of services between years we can confirm the generic ophthalmic services budgets and costs for 2023/24 and 2024/25 were as follows:

Year	Plan (£m)	Actual (£m)
2023/24	31.4	32.0
2024/25	33.1	32.8

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI contact for NHS England – [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net) – should you wish to redirect your request for the 2022/23 costs. Please write “Freedom of Information” in the subject line.

3. Please refer to the response to question 2.

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](http://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](http://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**