NHS
North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB 26–281

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

28 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 3 September 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

Further to recent communications between ourselves and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust (CNTW), we remain concerned about the current regional inpatient service provided to adults experiencing eating disorders and about a possible further erosion of this service.

You will be aware of the recent relocation of this service from Ward 31a at the RVI to Gibside Ward on the St. Nicholas Hospital site, but with the loss of one bed; the service has been reduced to 4 beds which represents a very significant 20% reduction to the inpatient service offered in the northern part of the region. We understand that this is a temporary move and that long term options are being considered.

We are also aware of the recent public engagement programme carried out by CNTW, a reported key theme of which has been concern about the need to maintain sufficient inpatient capacity. Additionally, a recent FOI to CNTW identifies that, with regard to beds, "pressures may arise during periods of increased demand".

Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. Key communications between NENC ICB and CNTW about this temporary reduction to the inpatient service and any indicative requirements from NENC ICB re future inpatient provision.
2. Contract details re the number of inpatient beds for adults with eating disorders – contracted with both CNTW and TEWV NHS Trusts, April 2024 – March 2025 and April 2025 – March 2026.
3. The number of adults, the number of bed nights, and the names of the NHS Trusts re inpatient care for adults experiencing eating disorders – contracted by NENC ICB with out of area NHS Trusts, April 2024 – March 2025 and April 2025 – March 2026.
4. The number of adults, the number of bed nights, and the names of the organisations re inpatient care for adults experiencing eating disorders – contracted by NENC ICB with private healthcare organisations, April 2024-March 2025 and April 2025 – March 2026.

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. A range of engagement events both in person and online were held with system partners. These ended on 30/04/2026. The papers for the service change were accepted at CNTW Executive and then the Provider Collaborative Board in May 2026. The short and longer terms plans were also shared at the ICB Mental Health Subcommittee and will be reviewed during future contract and quality meetings. The service is now co-located with the Regional Affective Disorders Service (RADS) at Gibside Ward at St Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth. Whilst there is one less bed staffing will remain as a 5 bed ward an in the event of an admission a RADS bed can be utilised to avoid Out of Area admissions.
2. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by the mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.

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 contacts of NENC region mental health hospital trusts and the NENC provider collaborative:

Organisation	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
NENC Provider Collaborative	nenc.providercomms@nhs.net
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

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