

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–403

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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Sunderland
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By Email

13 January 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 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

Please provide the following information for the period March 2023 – November 2025, within the geographical area covered by yourselves.

Scope

- Legal status: Individuals detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act
- Place of safety: Cases where an Emergency Department (A&E) was used as the initial/first health-based place of safety
- Population: All individuals, with the information broken down into the following age groups:
 - Children and young people
 - Adults

I am not requesting data relating to police stations or dedicated Section 136 suites. Information requested:

1. Use of A&E as first place of safety

For each of the age groups listed above, please provide:

- The number of individuals detained under Section 136 where A&E was recorded as the first place of safety.

- The number of individuals detained under Section 136 where a health based place of safety was recorded as the first place of safety.

2. Time spent in A&E

Where recorded or monitored by the ICB (including via provider returns, dashboards, or escalation reports), please provide for each age group:

- The average (mean) length of time individuals detained under Section 136 spent in A&E; and
- The median length of time spent in A&E.

If exact time measurements are not held, please provide the closest available aggregate measures used locally (for example, time bands, summary indicators, or the 95th percentile where available).

3. Police presence in A&E

Please advise whether the ICB records, monitors, or receives information relating to police presence in A&E for individuals detained under Section 136. If so, please provide any aggregate information held, broken down by the age groups above, including where available:

- The number or proportion of cases where police officers remained with the individual in A&E beyond arrival; and
- Any available information on the frequency or duration of police presence in A&E during Section 136 detentions.

Cost and limitations

If providing information for the full period would exceed the cost limit, please instead provide the information for the most recent period available, preferably from March 2024 onwards.

If any element of this request exceeds the information held, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available data within these parameters, together with a brief explanation of any limitations.

Our Response

1. 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 acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 for those foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk

South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. NENC ICB does not record, monitor, or receive information relating to police presence in A&E for individuals detained under Section 136.

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**