

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–357

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 December 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 2 December 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

This is a query under the FOI act. Please provide me with the following information in relation to the ICB's assertive outreach audit, which was completed last year following instructions from NHS England for ICBs to review policies regarding the care of people with severe mental illness who requirement treatment, but where engagement is a challenge.

1. Please share the findings of the audit/review into your 'assertive outreach' provision and the following action plans.
2. Please also share a summary, including how many patients require the services of assertive outreach.
3. How much will it cost to implement a full assertive outreach service?

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. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds the information you have requested. However, this was taken to the ICB Board meeting on the 29 of July 2025, as required by NHS England. Please find the papers and recording of the

meeting at the following link: [Board meeting held in public on Tuesday 29 July 2025 | North East and North Cumbria NHS](#). The Assertive and Intensive Community Mental Health Care Action Plan Update was item 16 on the agenda.

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

2. As a follow up to the July 2025 board meeting, the ICB Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Sub-Committee met in August 2025. The group was presented a decision paper to approve the submission of a 12-month progress review, as per a national NHS England request. The progress review captured information around the RAG rating of each trust's action planning position one year on from the original review, including outcomes of providers cohort scoping. These figures were not finalised and the ICB does not hold this detail on those patient numbers.
3. On this occasion it is not possible 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.

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**