

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-362

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

5 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 4 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

I am writing on 04/12/2025 to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The purpose of this Freedom of Information request is to understand how your organisation has funded post diagnosis support for people living with HIV as part of the BBV Opt-Out testing in Accident & Emergency Departments, and which kind of organisation has provided that support. For context, 10% of funding for this programme is allocated (originally as a recommendation, then as a requirement) to go towards post diagnosis (e.g. Community/peer) support. The post-diagnosis support can also be provided to people who are already patients (even if they are not diagnosed through the programme). We want to find out the data for each year that you have had this funding.

I have been informed that yourselves at the ICB are responsible for this programme in response to the same FOI request sent to trusts. Our specific questions are as follows:

1. For each of the years you have received any funding for BBV Opt-Out testing, please specify what proportion of the 10% allocation of overall funding has been spent on post-diagnosis support? Please provide this proportion as a % figure of the 10% funding rather than a numerical figure.

2. For each of the years you have received funding for BBV Opt-Out testing, please specify what proportions of the 10% of funding for post-diagnosis support has gone to supporting
 - a. people living with HIV
 - b. people living with Hepatitis C
 - c. people living with Hepatitis B
 - d. any other condition.

Please provide this proportion as a % figure of the 10% funding rather than a numerical figure.

3. For each of the years you have received funding for BBV Opt-Out testing, please tell us which organisation/provider has provided post-diagnosis support under this funding, and what % of the 10% of funding has gone to each type of provider.
 - a. HIV Voluntary/community organisations
 - b. Other non-HIV voluntary support/community organisations
 - c. Spent internally within the trust
 - d. Somewhere else – please specify
4. For each of the years you have received funding for BBV Opt-Out testing, if not all of the 10% of allocated funding has been spent on post-diagnosis support, please confirm how that money has been used.
5. For each of the years you have received funding for BBV Opt-Out testing, please tell us how many people have accessed post-diagnosis support funded through the programme.

Please provide the information in a table format for each of the years you have received any funding for BBV Opt-out testing from 2020, e.g.

2020	50%
2021	40%

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. The year and proportion of funding are stated in the table below:

2025/26	100%
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2. For financial year 2025/26 the proportion of funding is stated in the table below:

a. HIV	100%
b. Hepatitis C	-
c. Hepatitis B	-
d. any other condition	-

3. Post diagnostic support:

- a. Blue Sky Trust, 100%
- b. Please refer the response to question 3a.
- c. Please refer the response to question 3a.
- d. Please refer the response to question 3a.

4. Please refer the response to question 1.

5. When counts are very small (e.g., fewer than 5 cases), there is a high risk that individuals could be identified, especially if combined with other publicly available information (like location, age, or condition). The number of people who have access the service is under 5 and the actual number suppressed.

Note: NENC ICB received NHS England funding only for the peer support component of the HIV BBV Opt-Out testing project and therefore 100% of the money received was used to commission Blue Sky Trust for this purpose. The ICB did not commission the clinical component of the project, which was managed through NHS England directly with the provider, the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH).

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 NuTH and NHS England to allow you to make your request.

Public Authority	Email/Online portal
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/
NHS England	england.contactus@nhs.net (please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line)

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**