

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24-075

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By Email

23 May 2024

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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 16 May 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

**Your Request**

Please could I request under the Freedom of Information Act the following information for NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB:

- How many General Ophthalmic Services sight tests have been performed within the ICB each year over the past six years?
- Each year, over the past six years, what was the estimated budget for spending on GOS within the ICB? What was the actual spend for each year?

Please let me know if you would like me to clarify my request or provide further information.

**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.

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought prior to 1 April 2023. The ICB have only held the Primary Care Ophthalmic

Services contract since April 2023, prior to this, it was with NHS England North East & Yorkshire 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 email address NHS England to make your request, which is [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net) Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

In addition, Primary Care Support England (PCSE) are administrators who process ophthalmic payments on behalf of NHS England by Capita and may hold activity information. Their website is [Ophthalmic Payments | PCSE \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/ophthalmic-payments/)

The budget / actual spend for 2023/24 is noted below. NENC ICB does not hold activity data.

Estimated budget 2023/24:	£31,433,894
Actual spend:	£31,994,973

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 Senior 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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

[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 sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**