

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–120

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

8 July 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 26 June 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 request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It relates to the provision of tirzepatide (Mounjaro) for weight loss/obesity in primary care within the ICB area. The drug was approved by NICE on 23 December 2024, with an implementation date 180 days later, as agreed with NHS England, i.e. 23 June 2025.

1. Was tirzepatide available through primary care services in the ICB area to patients with obesity as of 23 June 2025?
2. If not, when will the drug be available?
3. What criteria does/will the ICB set for determining eligibility for treatment? Please specify BMI level, any additional health criteria, and whether other factors are taken into account, eg weight loss required for surgery.
4. How many people does the ICB calculate would be eligible for treatment in the first 12 months using the above criteria? If the calculation is based on financial year rather than the first 12 months from implementation date of the guidelines, please specify and use that figure.
5. Is there a cap on how many eligible patients will be treated in the first 12 months/this financial year (please specify time period used)?

Please let me have your replies within 20 working days from today, as required under the Act.

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

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NENC_NHS 

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. Yes, tirzepatide was available through primary care services in the ICB area to patients with obesity as of 23 June 2025, subject to GP practices agreeing to prescribe.

'Access' on 23 June does not mean people will be able to get a prescription for tirzepatide (Mounjaro) on that day. People living with obesity who meet the criteria will be able to explore with their healthcare professionals whether this is the right treatment for them. The pathway for tirzepatide was live on 23rd June 2025.

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. NHS NENC ICB follows the official guidance issued by NHS England to determine eligibility for treatment, which is:
 - BMI 40, or 37.5 for individuals from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African, or African-Caribbean backgrounds.
 - Presence of four or more of the following comorbidities:
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Hypertension
 - Dyslipidaemia
 - Obstructive sleep apnoea
 - Cardiovascular disease

[PRN01879-interim-commissioning-guidance-implementation-of-the-nice-technology-appraisal-ta1026-and-the-NICE-fu.pdf](#)

4. Based on NHSE clinical eligibility, NENC ICB have identified around 1400 people for Year 1.
5. NHS England has provided funding for priority groups, and NENC ICB is using this to fund access to tirzepatide in line with the national guidance for eligible patients in Year 1.

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 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**