

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–425

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

5 February 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 19 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

I would be grateful if you might supply the following information under the FOI procedure.

1. For the current financial year and the previous financial year, please provide the number of Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) posts approved by the ICB, broken down by role type (for example: Mental Health Practitioner, Social Prescribing Link Worker, Care Coordinator, Health and Wellbeing Coach).
2. For the same period, please provide the number of ARRS posts filled, broken down by role type.
3. Where available, please provide the number of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) within the ICB that:
 - Are utilising Mental Health Practitioner ARRS roles
 - Are utilising Social Prescribing Link Worker ARRS roles
4. Where held, please provide the average or estimated utilisation of ARRS-funded Mental Health Practitioners (for example, average caseload or appointments per week).
5. Please confirm whether PCNs within the ICB are expected to use ARRS roles to support:
 - Patients with health conditions affecting work
 - Fit Note-related activity

- Patients at risk of falling out of employment
6. For the current and previous financial year, where held, please provide:
- The total number of Fit Notes issued by GP practices within the ICB
 - Any available breakdown by duration (for example, short-term vs long-term Fit Notes)
7. Please confirm whether the ICB has undertaken any analysis or holds any reports relating to the following and, where held, provide copies of such:
- The impact of ill health on employment
 - The use of primary care data to support work and health interventions
8. Please confirm whether PCNs or GP practices within the ICB are currently involved in any case-finding initiatives related to employment, work retention, or Fit Note reform.

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. Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) posts approved are detailed in the table below:

Role	24-25 FTE as of 31 March 25	25-26 Planned FTE as of 31 March 26
Adult Mental Health Practitioner	103	85
Care Coordinators	359	379
Clinical Pharmacists	332	318
Advanced practitioners – Clinical Pharmacist	12	23
CYP Mental Health Practitioner	10	11
Dieticians	10	4
Health and Wellbeing Coach	78	61
Community Paramedics	39	36
Nursing Associates	70	74
Advanced practitioners – Paramedics	9	11
Pharmacy Technician	175	181
Physician Associates	32	17
First contact physiotherapists	107	108
Advanced practitioners – First contact physiotherapist	7	7
Podiatrists	8	5
Social prescribing link workers	306	253
Occupational therapists	19	17
Advanced practitioners- Dieticians	1	1
Advanced practitioners – Occupational therapists	1	1
Digital and Transformation Leads	35	39
General Practice Assistants	128	130
Advanced practitioners- Nurse	45	40
Enhanced Practice Nurse	8	25

Other Direct Patient Care roles	3	3
General Medical Practitioners	68	80
Student Nursing Associates (previously Trainee Nurse Associates)	59	36
Healthcare Support Worker		27
New to General Practice Nurses		7
Experienced general practice nurses		14
Total	2,024	1,994

2. Please refer to the response to question 1; this is a reimbursement scheme.
3. The number of PCNs is noted below:

Role	Number of PCNs
Mental Health Practitioner	58
Social Prescribing	66

4. 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 Primary Care Networks 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, a list of Primary Care Networks is available on the NHS Digital website: [GP and GP practice related data – NHS England Digital](#). The PCN full file name is **epcn** and for your reference, NENC ICB's Organisation Data Service (ODS) code is **QMH**.

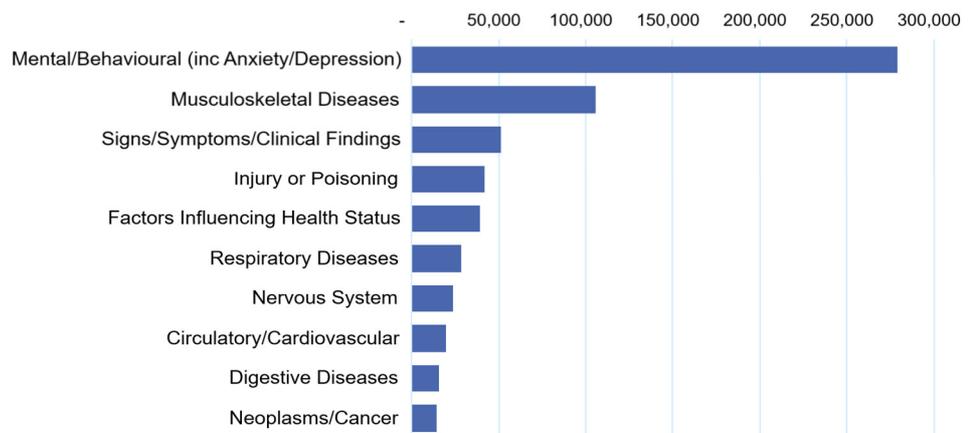
5. No, this is not a requirement of the PCN Directed Enhanced Service so is not an expectation of the ARRS roles.
6. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 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 GP practices 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, a list of general practices is available on the NHS Digital website: [GP and GP practice related data – NHS England Digital](#). The GP Practices full file name is **epraccur** and for your reference, NENC ICB's Organisation Data Service (ODS) code is **QMH**.

7. The summary of primary care data to support work and healthy intervention is shown below. This uses fit note as a proxy to identify the main drivers of economic inactivity. This is included in numerous reports and supported identification of interventions to support people with health conditions to remain at work.

What drives economic inactivity in our region?

The main drivers of economic inactivity (using fit note data as a proxy) in the North East and North Cumbria are MSK conditions, mental health problems and cardiometabolic disease



8. The ICB has commissioned a Work Well LES, which has been offered to all GP practices. Currently we have 280 practices across NENC ICB who have signed up to deliver the service. PCNs are not statutory bodies, therefore we cannot contract directly with a PCN.

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**