



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB703

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25/01/2024

Applicant
By Email

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 15/01/24 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 find below questions about GP practices in your area and visa sponsor status. GP practices need to have obtained a visa sponsorship license if they want to recruit a GP from outside the UK who needs a skilled worker visa.

- 1. How many GP practices in your ICB area are licensed visa sponsors currently?**
- 2. How many GP practices in your ICB area were registered visa sponsors 12 months ago?**
- 3. Is your ICB actively seeking to increase the number of GP practices in the area that are visa sponsors? If so, how?**

Our Response

1. *There are currently 115 Practices with a Visa License.*
2. *2 months ago, there were 60 practices with a Visa License.*
3. *NENC ICB have been actively promoting the process to obtain a Visa License to every practice in the area. The ICB agreed to reimburse practices for this License during 22/23 and 23/24. In addition, for 23/24 the ICB has agreed to reimburse practices the first-year costs incurred for the immigration skill charge for up to 3 new GPs or nurses, employed at the practice as part of the Visa sponsorship License.*

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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

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 sincerely

Ehren Smith

Ehren Smith
Information Governance Officer