NHS
North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB 26–297

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

30 September 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 14 September 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 am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request aggregate information relating to NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding for adults aged 18 years and over with a learning disability and/or autism, together with equivalent information for the overall adult CHC population to enable comparison.

The information is being requested to support doctoral research examining the scale and financial significance of NHS Continuing Healthcare provision for adults with learning disabilities and/or autism, alongside wider research into Practice Leadership, organisational risk and provider sustainability within adult social care.

For each of the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, I would be grateful if you could provide the following:

1. Total actual adult CHC expenditure (£) across all diagnostic/client groups.
2. Total number of adults aged 18+ receiving CHC funding across all diagnostic/client groups during each financial year.
3. Total actual CHC expenditure (£) for adults recorded as having:
   - a learning disability;
   - autism; and/or

- learning disability and autism combined, where this is the category used by the ICB.

4. Number of adults with a learning disability and/or autism receiving CHC funding during each financial year.
5. Number of adults receiving CHC funding at 31 March of each year, for:
   - the overall adult CHC caseload; and
   - the learning disability/autism cohort.
6. Average weekly package cost or average annual expenditure per funded adult, if routinely held, for:
   - all adult CHC recipients; and
   - adults with a learning disability and/or autism.

   If these averages are not routinely held, there is no requirement to calculate them specifically for this request; the expenditure and activity figures above will be sufficient.
7. Where held, please provide the total annual adult CHC budget or planned allocation, and any amount specifically allocated or identified for adults with a learning disability and/or autism.
8. Expenditure and number of funded adults with learning disability and/or autism by care setting, where available, for example:
   - supported living/domiciliary care/own home;
   - residential care;
   - nursing care; and
   - other community-based provision.
9. Expenditure and funded-person figures by local authority/place area within the ICB, where this information is held.
10. Number of distinct CQC-registered adult social care providers commissioned by the ICB to support CHC-funded adults with learning disability and/or autism during each financial year.
11. Where the ICB maintains an approved-provider list, provider dashboard or equivalent commissioning system, please provide the number of CQC-regulated providers recorded for adult learning disability/autism services and indicate whether this represents:
    - all approved providers; or
    - providers actually commissioned by the ICB.

For clarity, I am seeking NHS Continuing Healthcare expenditure rather than NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC). Where jointly funded packages or other funding streams are included within the figures and cannot readily be separated, please identify this.

I recognise that statutory ICBs commenced on 1 July 2022. For 2022/23, where the ICB holds full-year information inherited from predecessor CCGs, I would be grateful if this could be provided. If only information from 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023 is held, please provide this and clearly identify the reporting period.

Where the precise learning disability/autism classifications requested above are not available, please provide the closest equivalent recorded category and briefly explain how that category is defined.

Please provide the information electronically, preferably in Excel or CSV format, with the figures separated by financial year where possible. I am requesting aggregate data only and do not require any patient-identifiable information.

If any individual element of this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit or is not held in the requested format, I would be grateful if you could provide the remaining information that can reasonably be supplied and advise whether the outstanding element could be narrowed or reformulated.

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 response has been provided for ICB places except Northumberland. 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 for Northumberland ICB place. However, we have determined that the information is held by the local authority.

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 contact for Northumberland County Council: Information Governance – Northumberland CC.

1. Please refer to the response within the attached summary sheet. Information has been provided for financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. 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 for financial year 2022/23.
2. 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. However, this is published data, available here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-chc-fnc/. Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.
3. Please refer to the response within the attached summary sheet.
4. Adults with a learning disability and/or autism receiving CHC funding during the year:

Financial year	Total clients		Learning Difficulties / Autism	
	During year	Financial year end	During year	Financial year end
2022/23	11,613	2,936	3,097	887
2023/24	8,631	2,881	2,291	995
2024/25	7,270	2,870	2,168	1,063
2025/26	6,996	3,175	2,167	1,270

5. Please refer to the response to question 4 in the table above.
6. Please refer to the response within the attached summary sheet.
7. Please refer to the response within the attached summary sheet.
8. Please refer to the response within the attached summary sheet.
9. Please refer to the response within the attached summary sheet.

   In addition, some information has been suppressed. This is because the number of funded-person figures individuals is fewer than five (5). Disclosure of very small numbers may increase the risk of identifying individuals, particularly when combined with other information that may already be available. The information is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as disclosure would constitute the release of personal data and would be contrary to the principles of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

10. Distinct CQC-registered adult social care providers commissioned by the ICB to support CHC-funded adults with learning disability and/or autism:

Financial year	Number of providers
2022/23	15
2023/24	40
2024/25	50
2025/26	11

11. NENC ICB does not maintain an approved provider list, provider dashboard, or equivalent commissioning system.

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