

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–220

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 535 4288
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

14 August 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 31 July 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 to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please provide the information set out below in relation to the commissioning of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) services within your integrated care board area, with a particular focus on primary care provision.

Where data is not available for the most recent financial year, please provide the most recent year for which it is held, and indicate the relevant period.

Section 1: Primary care LARC capacity

1. How many GP practices within your ICB area are currently commissioned or accredited to provide LARC fittings (i.e. hold the relevant Local Enhanced Service, Locally Commissioned Service, or equivalent arrangement)?

Section 2: Payments and funding for LARC in primary care

2. What is the current payment rate for a LARC fitting under the locally enhanced service or equivalent arrangement in your ICB area? Please specify:
 - a. The fitting fee paid to the GP practice
 - b. Whether the device cost is reimbursed separately, and if so, at what rate or mechanism
 - c. Whether different rates apply for different device types (IUS, IUD, implant)

- d. Whether different rates apply for different clinical indications (i.e., gynaecological vs contraceptive use)
3. What was the total expenditure by your ICB on LARC fitting payments to primary care providers in each of the last three financial years for which data is held (please specify which financial year your data is from)?

Section 3: Integrated commissioning arrangements

4. Does your ICB operate, or participate in, any integrated commissioning arrangement for contraception services that spans both primary care and local authority-commissioned sexual health services? If so, please describe the model briefly and provide any relevant documentation (e.g. a memorandum of understanding, joint commissioning framework, or service specification).
5. If an integrated commissioning arrangement is in place, does your ICB hold any data on cost savings or efficiency gains attributable to this arrangement? If so, please provide a summary.

Please respond within the statutory 20 working days. If any part of this request is refused on exemption grounds, please specify which exemption applies and whether a public interest test has been applied.

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.

North and North Cumbria

1. Practices currently commissioned or accredited to provide LARC fittings:

North Cumbria: 30 out of 33 practices

Northumberland: all 36 practices, via a subcontract arrangement with Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT)

North Tyneside: 17 out of 20 via a subcontract arrangement with TyneHealth, GP federation.

2. Payments and funding for LARC in primary care is as follows:

- a. The fitting fee paid to the GP practice:

North Cumbria:

Service	Tariff
IUCD fittings	£86.29
IUCD removals	£21.51
Contraceptive implants: Insertions	£53.98
Contraceptive implants: Insertions	£37.79

- Northumberland: part of block arrangement with NHCFT
- North Tyneside:

SERVICE – Component of cost	Cost
New Service, fitting in GP practice	£83.82
6-week review – by Practice Nurse	£23.28

Removal fee	£23.28
Management and reporting	£10

b. Reimbursement:

North Cumbria: please refer to the response to question 2a.
Northumberland: part of block arrangement with NHCFT.
North Tyneside: please refer to the response to question 1a.

c. Rates for different device types (IUS, IUD, implant):

North Cumbria: please refer to the response to question 2a.
Northumberland: part of block arrangement with NHCFT.
North Tyneside: please refer to the response to question 1a.

d. Rates apply for different clinical indications:

North Cumbria: please refer to the response to question 2a.
Northumberland: part of block arrangement with NHCFT
North Tyneside: please refer to the response to question 1a.

3. Total expenditure by financial year:

North Cumbria: part of block arrangement.
Northumberland: part of block arrangement with NHCFT.
North Tyneside: expenditure is shown in the table below:

Financial year	Cost
2023/24	£12,497
2024/25	£14,464.25
2025/26	£14,111.81

4. Please refer to the responses to questions 1, 2 and 3.

5. Please refer to the responses to questions 1, 2 and 3.

Newcastle and Gateshead

On this occasion it is not possible 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. The ICB does not commission a LARC LES in Newcastle and Gateshead.

Central

Durham The ICB does not commission GP practices to provide contraceptive LARC services in Durham. The ICB does not hold information on LARC fittings for contraceptive purposes. The commissioning of sexual health services for contraceptive provision is the responsibility of Durham County Council.

Sunderland: The LARC service is jointly commissioned with Sunderland City Council. The attached service specification answers your questions 1 to 5.

In addition, and 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 contacts for Durham County Council and Sunderland City Council below.

NENC Local Authorities	Email/Online portal
Durham County Council	Freedom of Information – Durham CC
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

South Tyneside: On this occasion it is not possible 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. The ICB does not commission a LARC LES in South Tyneside.

South

1. Across the Tees Valley, the ICB does not directly commission a Local Enhanced Service (LES), Locally Commissioned Service (LCS) or equivalent primary care service for the provision of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) fittings within Tees Place for contraceptive purposes.

The ICB commissions 11 GP practices in Darlington place to provide the fitting of LARC for non-contraceptive purposes through a Local Enhanced Service (LES). For the rest of Tees Valley, including Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland this is provided through the integrated sexual health service.

Under the General Medical Services (GMS) Contract, GP practices are required to provide contraceptive services which include:

- Advice about the full range of contraceptive methods;
- Medical examination where appropriate;
- Treatment for contraceptive purposes and the prescribing of contraceptive substances and appliances excluding the fitting and implanting of intrauterine devices and contraceptive implants;
- Advice and provision of emergency contraception where appropriate;
- Advice and referral in cases of unplanned pregnancy;
- Initial advice regarding sexual health promotion and sexually transmitted infections; and
- Referral to specialist sexual health services as required.

The ICB therefore does not hold information on the number of GP practices commissioned through an LES/LCS arrangement to provide LARC fittings.

An Integrated Sexual Health Service is commissioned jointly with Local Authority colleagues across Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. The provider of this service is Teesside Together and can subcontract, at their discretion, local practices to provide LARC on their behalf. The ICB does not hold this information.

A Sexual Health Service is commissioned by Darlington Borough Council provided by County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust. The ICB does not hold information on this service.

2. The ICB does not directly commission a locally enhanced service or equivalent arrangement for LARC fittings in primary care within Tees Place for the fitting of LARC for contraceptive purposes and therefore does not hold information relating to payment rates, fitting fees, device reimbursement arrangements or differential payment mechanisms.

The fitting fee currently paid under the Darlington Local Enhanced Service for the fitting of IUS for non-contraceptive purposes is £87.43 per unit of activity.

3. The ICB does not directly commission LARC fitting services for contraceptive purposes from GP practices and therefore does not hold expenditure data relating to LARC fitting payments made to primary care providers.

The ICB expenditure through the commissioned Local Enhanced Service for the 11 Darlington GP practices for the fitting of LARC IUS for non-contraceptive purposes for the available financial years.

Financial Year	Spend
2024/25	£4987.40
2025/26	£4012.88

4. Yes, the ICB works collaboratively with Local Authority partners across Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland in commissioning the Tees Integrated Sexual Health Service.

Whilst the ICB does not commission a primary care LES/LCS for LARC fittings contraceptive purposes, the provider of the Tees Integrated Sexual Health Service may subcontract individual GP practices to provide LARC services on its behalf as part of the wider integrated sexual health model.

The ICB is not the lead commissioner in this arrangement; the lead commissioner for the service is Stockton Borough Council. Therefore, no memorandum of understanding or joint commissioning framework specific to primary care LARC commissioning is held by the ICB for the purposes of this request.

5. The ICB does not hold data specifically identifying cost savings or efficiency gains attributable to the integrated commissioning arrangement described above. The lead commissioner may be able to provide this information.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the FOI contact email for Stockton-on Tees Borough Council is foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk.

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**