

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25-011

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

22 April 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 4 April 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**

1. Please provide me with a list of all the **approved and not approved** GP premises and improvement proposals projects submitted under Part 2, paragraph 7 of the Premises Cost Direction since North East and North Cumbria ICB took over commissioning duties.

To clarify, that paragraph states:

***“Premises development and improvement proposals***

*7. (1) Where a contractor has a proposal for–*

- (a) the building of new premises to be used for providing primary medical services;*
- (b) the purchase of land or premises or both to be used for providing primary medical services;*
- (c) the development of premises which are used or are to be used for providing primary medical services (or for significant changes to existing development proposals);*
- (d) the sale and lease back of premises used for providing primary medical services;*
- (e) the increase of the existing floor area of premises used for providing primary medical services which would lead to an increase of a payment made to the contractor under these Directions; or*
- (f) premises improvements, which are to be the subject of a premises improvement grant application, and it puts that proposal to NHS England as part of an application for financial assistance in respect of the proposal, NHS England must consider that application.”*

2. Please provide me with as much direction as you can **within the cost limits** as to where I can find the information requested above for the years prior to the North East and North Cumbria ICB taking commissioning duties.

## Our Response

1. 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, we have estimated that to provide you with the required information, would exceed the cost limit of £450 for the NHS as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

S.12(1) of the FOIA provides that a public authority is not obliged to respond to a request for information if the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes.

We have carried out a reasonable and proportionate search to locate all of the documents that relate to the above request for information and outline how this was carried out:

- There is no central register holding such data.
- There are approximately 350 GP premises in NENC ICB. To provide the list of all the approved and not approved premises and improvement proposals, NENC ICB would be required to carry out searches of over 477 individual site records.
- Accessing the range of Practice and financial files, plus individual review of each, data extraction and collation at ICB level, would take approximately 30 minutes per site. This figure is an average taking into the account the different levels of accessibility of records for different sites. For example, additional information may need to be sourced from the District Valuer or other third-party organisations to complete the process, and this would significantly increase the time spent.
- In total, we estimate that providing the list of all approved and not approved premises and improvement proposals since 2022 would equate to around 238 hours of work, which is considerably over the 18-hour limit.

We do not currently see a way to bring this request in under the 18-hour time limit as the request is seeking to cover a broad range of data.

If you would like to resubmit your request, please do so by emailing [nencicb.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nencicb.foi@nhs.net). Please note, we cannot guarantee that Section 12(1) or any exemptions will not apply to any further information requested.

2. Previous records were held by Clinical Commissioning Groups, now superseded by ICBs. This information is available; however the issue is not around where the records are, it is the time it will take to obtain that information.

Please refer to the response to question 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](http://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](http://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**