

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24–381

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By Email

21 January 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 6 January 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, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

**Your Request**

I am making a FOI request relating to alopecia and the drug Ritlecitinib.

I am aware there have been funding issues at Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which has delayed the implementation and roll out of this medicine for patients who qualify for Ritlecitinib and who are in desperate need of this NICE approved drug.

I was hoping you could provide me with an update as to when we will be able to access this drug in the North East. I am keen to understand when we will catch up to the rest of the UK and what the delays have been.

Here are the details of NICE's approval and implementation plan, dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and as you will see local authorities are to comply with the recommendations in this evaluation within 3 months of its date of publication. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta958/chapter/4-Implementation>

I await your reply around dates and availability.

## 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 ethical decision-making group is passing its recommendation to the North East and North Cumbria Clinical Effectiveness and Governance Subcommittee for consideration in February 2025, which will then be considered by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Executive Committee. Therefore, it is likely that the decision will not be made until March 2025.

The March 2025 Public Executive Committee meeting minutes will be uploaded to the website with the next set of Board papers which will be for 3 June 2025, meeting so the papers will be uploaded around 27 May 2025.

For your reference, the link to North East and North Cumbria ICB's Board Meetings and agendas is <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/meetings-and-agendas/>

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 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](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 sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**