

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-349

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

17 December 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 28 November 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

Thank you for your previous response to FOI ICB 25-294. I would like to refine my request to focus only on information that is not exempt under Section 22 or Section 43 of the FOIA. I am not seeking commercially sensitive content, financial figures or negotiation documentation. I require only high-level information that can be disclosed with redactions where necessary.

Under the FOIA, please provide:

1. A list of all stakeholders engaged or consulted by the ICB or former CCG in relation to the proposed relocation of Bewick Road Surgery. This may be provided as a list of organisations only, with individual names redacted if required.
2. The dates of any meetings, discussions or correspondence between the ICB or former CCG and pharmacy stakeholders regarding the proposed relocation. Redacted content is acceptable; I am requesting dates, attending organisations and subject categories only.
3. Copies of any meeting minutes, notes or emails where pharmacy stakeholders are referenced in connection with the relocation. Please provide documents with only the commercially sensitive content redacted. Under the FOIA, redactions should be applied only to specific exempt content and not to entire documents.

4. Copies of any internal ICB or CCG documents, including briefing notes, scoping papers or estates strategy papers, that reference community pharmacies in the context of the relocation. Redaction is acceptable for any sensitive content.
5. Confirmation of whether pharmacy stakeholders were informed or consulted at any point prior to 1 November 2025. If the answer is yes, please provide the date or dates on which this occurred.
6. Any records of discussions with the GP practice that reference pharmacies, pharmacy operators or pharmaceutical service provision near the proposed new site. Redacted content is acceptable. The request is for the existence and nature of the reference, not confidential detail.

This request has been framed specifically to avoid content that may be exempt under Sections 22 and 43. In accordance with the FOIA, any non-exempt portions of documents should still be released, with redactions applied only where necessary.

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.

1. The following organisations have been involved in informal discussions relating to the proposed relocation:
 - Bewick Road Medical Practice
 - Gateshead Council (Estates and Regeneration)
 - Jewish Community Council of Gateshead (JCCG) – proposed landlord/project sponsor
 - NHS England / NHS Property Services – advisory discussions
 - Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust – as part of wider estates coordination
 - Representatives of Bewick Road Pharmacy (current and prospective owners over time) regarding potential future co-location

These discussions have primarily focused on premises feasibility, lease considerations and ensuring the sustainability of primary care provision.

No formal consultation has yet taken place. A patient and public engagement process will be undertaken once a final agreement confirms that the premises can be secured and refurbished for clinical use.

2. The ICB holds limited informal information concerning exploratory discussions between the GP practice, JCCG and successive owners or prospective owners of Bewick Road Pharmacy. These discussions have related to the possibility of a pharmacy forming part of the new premises.

The following points summarise the material held:

- Earlier versions of the architectural plans included an indicative 100 m² pharmacy adjoining the waiting area.
- The then-Lloyds Pharmacy operator on Bewick Road expressed interest in moving with the GP practice.
- Following ownership changes, subsequent informal discussions occurred with later operators or prospective purchasers.
- A recent attempted sale of the pharmacy business did not proceed.
- Current development plans still include scope for a pharmacy component, positioned at the opposite end of the building, but the final layout remains subject to change.

- These discussions have been exploratory only, with no formal agreements, applications or commitments made by any pharmacy operator.

The ICB does not hold:

- Formal meeting minutes with pharmacy operators,
- Market-entry applications relating to a pharmacy move,
- Agreement documents,
- Consultation papers, or
- Internal reports detailing a confirmed pharmacy relocation.

Where informal conversations occurred, they were led by the GP practice and JCCG as part of early planning exploration rather than by the ICB through any structured commissioning or regulatory process.

Regulatory clarification:

Any community pharmacy wishing to relocate to the proposed Prince Consort Road premises would be required to apply via a Regulation 24 relocation application under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013. Such applications are considered through the ICB's statutory market-entry process. To date, no pharmacy relocation application has been submitted, and therefore the ICB holds no records relating to such a process.

3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 2.
6. Pharmacy stakeholders were informally notified before 1 November 2025.

Representatives connected with Bewick Road Pharmacy (across several ownership changes) had high-level discussions with the GP practice about potential relocation options. These were informal exploratory conversations, not part of a formal ICB process.

The ICB does not hold any formal consultation documents or structured engagement materials involving pharmacy stakeholders.

7. The ICB holds general project update information indicating that the GP practice discussed the potential inclusion of a pharmacy within the building. These references relate to:
 - Space planning
 - Indicative layout options
 - The practice's intention to engage any new owner of Bewick Road Pharmacy when confirmed

The ICB does not hold detailed records or documentation beyond these high-level project references. The information provided in this response does not require the application of any FOIA exemptions.

The ICB holds only limited, informal information about pharmacy involvement in the proposed relocation, and no commercially sensitive data or negotiation documentation has been disclosed.

Where requested information does not exist (e.g., formal minutes, market-entry documentation, consultation reports, or agreements), this has been stated as "information not held."

For clarity:

Any pharmacy wishing to relocate to the proposed Prince Consort Road premises would be required to apply formally through the ICB's market-entry process (Regulation 24 relocation). As no such application has been made, no formal records exist.

Summary:

- Informal discussions have occurred with a range of stakeholders, including Bewick Road Pharmacy representatives.
- A pharmacy has always been envisaged as part of the proposed development, but remains subject to the outcome of future commercial discussions and the statutory market-entry process.
- No formal agreements, applications, consultations or decisions regarding pharmacy relocation currently exist.
- The ICB is awaiting confirmation of pharmacy ownership before any further discussions can progress.
- Formal public engagement will take place once lease and development arrangements for the GP premises are confirmed.

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**