

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB790

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By Email

28 February 2024

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 24 February 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would prefer to receive the information to be emailed to me in electronic form please. If you require any clarification, please can you contact me under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance if you find any aspect of this FOI request problematic.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material please. I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request. I reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to charge excessive fees. Please could you provide me with the information relating to my questions below:

1. Please can you provide the name and email address of the medicines management team member who led on the Eye Care (Chapter 11) formulary review when it was last reviewed?
2. Please can you provide the name and email address of the member of the ICS Medicines management team who is currently responsible for overseeing Eye Care formularies?
3. Do you have an area prescribing committee/Medicines Optimisation Committees/ Medicines advisory group or similarly named group that manages your drug formulary decisions?

4. Please can you provide the names and email addresses of all members of these formulary groups?
5. Please can you provide copies of the previous two minutes from the Area Prescribing Committee/ Medicines Optimisation Committees/ Medicines advisory group or similarly named groups meetings?
6. I would be grateful if you could confirm for which products within Chapter 11 (Eye) of your formulary, you have a primary care rebate in place, when the agreement commenced, the rebate amount and the end date?
7. Does the ICS have a deficit forecast for 2023/2024 financial year? If so, how much is this deficit? And how much is the forecast deficit for 2024/2025 financial year?
8. What is the value of your ICS's planned savings from the Medicines management drug prescribing budget in the financial year: 2023-2024? And 2024–2025?

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request.

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. For NENC ICB, there is no individual lead on development of the eye care chapter. It was developed as a result of merging formularies from the three previous Area Prescribing Committees covering North East and North Cumbria.
2. For NENC ICB, there is no designated individual. Whole formulary oversight is provided by the Formulary sub-committee. All enquiries should be directed to Regional Drug and Therapeutics Centre at nuth.nyrdtc.rxsupp@nhs.net
3. The Northern Treatment Advisory Group (NTAG) manages drug formulary decisions. Details are available on the website [About us – NTAG](#) and [North East and North Cumbria Formulary \(northeastnorthcumbriaformulary.nhs.uk\)](#) Recommendations from NTAG are considered and approved at the NENC Medicines subcommittee, Further information available at is available at [Terms of Reference and Membership – NTAG](#)
4. There is no definitive list of email names and addresses for members of committees as they may change. Attendees at meetings are included in minutes of meetings available using the link provided in the response to question 5.
5. Meeting minutes are available via the links [NTAG Meetings and minutes – NTAG](#) Minutes are further information available at: [NENC Medicines Subcommittee Meetings – NTAG](#)
6. No primary care rebates are in place for products within the eye section of the formulary.
7. The ICS financial position is reported to each ICB Board meeting and can be found in the [Board papers](#) on the ICB website. For 2023/24, the ICS is forecasting a deficit of £35m (as at 31 January 2024). Financial plans for 2024/25 are currently being developed and will be presented to ICB Board for approval in due course.

8. The value of the ICB's planned savings from the Medicines Management drug prescribing budget in financial year 2023-2024 is £8.8 million. The 2024-2025 planned savings for prescribing budget are still to be finalised, there is not yet a set date for this.

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

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer