

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–462

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

26 February 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 10 February 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 request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request and look forward to your full response within 20 working days, as stipulated by the Act. Specifically, please provide the following information in relation to your Integrated Care Board's assertive outreach provision:

1. The findings of the ICB's review into its assertive outreach provision, including the latest update on any associated action plans.
2. The number of patients currently identified as requiring assertive outreach services.
3. The estimated cost of implementing a full assertive outreach service.

If any part of this request is unclear, please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification.

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. The most recent update available to the ICB is the update shared with the Board in July 2025. Please find the papers and recording of the meeting at the following link: [Board meeting held in public on Tuesday 29 July 2025 | North](#)

[East and North Cumbria NHS](#). The Assertive and Intensive Community Mental Health Care Action Plan Update was item 16 on the agenda.

- Utilising the scope provided from the 'guidance to integrated care boards on intensive and assertive community mental health care' (July 2024) Link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/guidance-to-integrated-care-boards-on-intensive-and-assertive-community-mental-health-care/>, the respective provider trusts in the NENC identified, as of September 2025, 640 individuals who met this criteria.

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

- We have answered this question with the understanding that the question posed is seeking to understand our position against the assertive outreach fidelity model (DACT fidelity scale, 2016). From system calculations and information the ICB has received, our best estimate is that this would cost up to circa £14 million. This cost however does not account for workforce resource that is already in the system, so is not necessarily an additional cost.

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**