

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-424

[NECS – John Snow House](#)
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By Email

21 February 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 30 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'm writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please would you be able to provide:

1. Details of any public health campaigns, education programs, or policy discussions related to the use of nicotine pouches in your region.
2. Any internal assessments, concerns, or minutes from meetings where nicotine pouch-related health risks were discussed.
3. Any studies or reports commissioned by your ICB into the health effects of nicotine pouch use.
4. Any data on hospital admissions, A&E visits, or GP consultations where nicotine pouches were recorded as a contributing factor, since 2019, disaggregated by year. If available, please include ICD-10 codes or other classification methods used.

Note that I am only requesting statistical information in aggregate form and do not require any personal details or identifiers about individual cases.

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. Details are as follows:

- Discussions were held at the NENC Tobacco Dependency Advisor (TDA) Network meeting on 4 June 2024. Information was circulated via email to the TDA network on 5 June 2024.
- Information was received from national smokefree sites community of practice meeting on 25 July 2024. This was shared internally for information purposes.
- The ICB is not aware of public health campaigns or education programs on nicotine pouch use in the NENC region.
- Please refer to the attached presentation.

2. Details are as follows:

- The NENC Tobacco Dependency Advisor Network held discussions at the meeting on 4th of June 2024.
- Email with information circulated externally to network on 5th of June 2024.
- Please also refer to the attached email.

3. There have been no studies or reports commissioned by NENC ICB into the health effects of nicotine pouch use.

4. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

| NENC Acute Hospital FTs | Email |
|--|------------------------------------|
| County Durham and Darlington NHS FT | cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net |
| Gateshead Health NHS FT | ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net |
| North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT | foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk |
| North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT | foi@nth.nhs.uk |
| Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT | foi@northumbria.nhs.uk |
| South Tees Hospitals NHS FT | foi@stees.nhs.uk |
| South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT | stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net |
| The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT | nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net |

You may also wish to refer to the NHS website's quit smoking page; the link to this is [Nicotine Facts Better Health – NHS](#)

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