

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-075

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

16 June 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 19 May 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

1. Please provide a list of all current contracts held by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) with independent sector providers for diagnostic imaging services, specifically covering MRI, CT, ultrasound and reporting services. For each contract, please include the following details:
 - The name of the supplier or provider
 - A description of the services covered by the contract (e.g. MRI, CT, ultrasound, reporting)
 - The annual value of the contract (£)
 - The contract starts date (DD/MM/YYYY)
 - The contract expiry date (DD/MM/YYYY)
 - Details of any extension options included within the contract (e.g. duration, conditions)
2. Does the ICB currently operate or commission any Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs)? If so, for each CDC, please provide:
 - The full postal address or location
 - The imaging capacity by modality (i.e. number of MRI, CT, ultrasound scans that can be performed per week/month)
 - The average utilisation rate for each modality over the past three months (expressed as a percentage or number of appointments used versus available capacity)
 - Details of any imaging services that have been underutilised in the past six months (including modality and period of underutilisation)

3. Is the ICB planning any procurement exercises for diagnostic imaging services within the next 12 to 24 months? If yes, please specify:
 - The imaging modality (e.g. MRI, CT, ultrasound)
 - The anticipated timeline for procurement (e.g. planned start date, expected award date)
4. Are any current diagnostic imaging service contracts under review for re-procurement, outsourcing, insourcing, or provider consolidation? If so, please list the affected services and describe the nature of the review.
5. Please state the total spend by the ICB on independent sector diagnostic imaging services for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26. Where possible, break down spend by modality (MRI, CT, ultrasound, reporting).
6. Does the ICB anticipate increasing its use of independent sector diagnostic imaging services over the next 24 months? Please provide any supporting documents or board papers that outline plans or forecasts for increased utilisation.

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 name of the supplier and service descriptions were provided in response to FOI ICB 25-498. A copy of the response is publicly available on the ICB's disclosure long on our website at: [foi-icb-25-498-response-letter](#). The ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.

Contract values, start and end dates and details of extension options were provided in response to FOI ICB 25-522. A copy of the response is publicly available on the ICB's disclosure long on our website at: [foi-icb-25-522-response-letter](#). The ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.

2. Yes, the ICB does commission CDCs. Details of those CDCs providers are detailed in the table below:

Name	Postal address
Bishop Auckland	Bishop Auckland Hospital, Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6AD <i>Associated foundation trust: County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Metrocentre	St. Michaels Way, Metrocentre, Gateshead, NE11 9YR <i>Associated foundation trust: Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Workington	Central Way, Workington CA14 3GS <i>Associated foundation trust: North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Stockton	Tees Valley Community Diagnostic Centre, Bridge Rd, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3AA <i>Associated foundation trust: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Friarage	Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, DL6 1JG <i>Associated foundation trust: South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Hartlepool	Holdforth Road, Hartlepool, TS24 9AH

	<i>Associated foundation trust: North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust</i>
Redcar	West Dyke Road, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4NW <i>Associated foundation trust: South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</i>

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 relation to:

- Imaging capacity by modality.
- The average utilisation rate for each modality over the past three months.
- Details of any imaging services that have been underutilised in the past six months

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) noted in the table above.

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 contacts for those foundation trusts.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
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	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net

3. There are no current plans for a procurement exercise for diagnostic imaging services. All procurements will be advertised on the Atamis system.
4. No, current diagnostic imaging service contracts are not under review for re-procurement, outsourcing, insourcing, or provider consolidation
5. ICB spend on independent sector diagnostic imaging services for 2024/25 and 2025/26:

Modality	2024/25 (£)	2025/26 (£)	Total (£)
MRI	803,667	901,341	1,705,007
CT	482,713	75,291	558,004
Dexa Scans	1,036	425	1,461
Ultrasound	197,239	282,001	479,240
Total	1,484,654	1,259,058	2,743,712

Caveat: 2025/26 is based currently on flex data supplied by providers and is therefore subject to change once we receive the freeze/final activity from them.

6. No, at the present time the ICB does not anticipate increasing its use of independent sector diagnostic imaging services over the next 24 months.

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**