

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–121

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

30 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 9 June 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information.

ICBs are required to meet the costs of funding access to tirzepatide for the treatment of obesity in primary care settings from 23 June 2025 to patient cohorts on a phased basis.

NHS [guidance](#) says cohort 1 – patients with a BMI of 40 or above and four or more qualifying comorbidities – should have been offered access to tirzepatide in 2025/26.

1. How many patients in the ICB area are in cohort 1?
2. How many patients in this cohort have been offered treatment with tirzepatide?
3. How many have been prescribed tirzepatide?
4. How many have been offered/prescribed alternative weight-loss treatment?

NHS [guidance](#) says cohort 2 – patients with a BMI of 40 or above and four or more qualifying comorbidities – should be offered access to tirzepatide in 2026/27.

5. How many patients in the ICB area are in cohort 2?
6. How many patients in this cohort have been offered treatment with tirzepatide?
7. How many have been prescribed tirzepatide?

8. How many have been offered/prescribed alternative weight-loss treatment?

Our Response

These data relate to the North East and North Cumbria ICB.

1. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds the information you have requested. However, it is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication as part of a national evaluation led by NHS England. It is considered that it is reasonable to withhold the requested information prior to publication because this information will, once finalised and approved, be published nationally.

When considering the application of this exemption we are required to assess the public interest in withholding or disclosing the requested information. There is evidently a public interest in funding access to tirzepatide for the treatment of obesity in primary care settings, however, this is best served by preventing the disclosure of that information ahead of NHS England's predetermined timescale. Therefore, on this occasion, we consider the public interest in withholding the requested information outweighs the public interest in providing the requested data at this time.

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 contact for NHS England: england.contactus@nhs.net. Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

2. 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 GP practices 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 and for your reference, a list of practices is available on the NHS Digital website: [GP and GP practice related data – NHS England Digital](#). The GP Practices full file name is **epraccur** and for your reference, NENC ICB's Organisation Data Service (ODS) code is **QMH**.

3. The ICB does not hold this information. Prescribing data can be obtained from the NHS BSA <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/> (NB tirzepatide can be prescribed for diabetes as well as overweight). The number of patient referrals to Behavioural Support in Obesity Prescribing can be obtained from Reed Wellbeing <https://healthieryou.reedwellbeing.com/behavioural-support-for-obesity-prescribing/>.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1.
6. 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. NENC patients in cohort 2 did not become eligible for tirzepatide treatment until 23 June 2026.
7. Please refer to the response to question 6.
8. Please refer to the response to question 2.

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**