

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-077

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

11 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

I am investigating NHS-commissioned Neurodiversity Services (ADHD and ASD) across the UK. “Neurodiversity Services” here includes assessment, medication initiation / titration and post-diagnostic support to individuals in the community. In England, this includes provision delivered via Right to Choose / Any Qualified Provider arrangements, where applicable. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

1. Please provide your total annual spend (for each of the last three financial years, FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/FY26) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by:
 - a. Total annual spend by third party private provider*
 - b. For each third-party private provider, total annual spend by assessment type (ADHD / Autism)
2. Please provide your total number of patients (for each of the last three financial years, FY23/24, FY24/25, FY25/FY26) on ADHD and Autism assessments, broken down by:
 - a. Total number of patients assessed by third party private provider*
 - b. For each third-party private provider, total number of patients assessed by assessment type (ADHD / Autism)

3. For each third-party private provider, please indicate the contract type (block / activity-based), start date and end date.

Please include volumes from NHS Trusts within your ICB that may deliver these services, and also third-party private providers (or indicate if this is not possible).

FY is defined as a year starting in April and ending in March. For example, FY23/24 starts on 1 April 2023 and ends on 31 March 2024.

If exact spend by provider is not disclosable, please provide spend in bands (e.g., <£0.5m; £0.5–1m; £1–2m; £2–5m; >£5m) or top 5 providers plus 'all others'.

* Third-party private providers refers to independent, non-NHS organisations contracted to deliver ADHD and / or Autism services. These providers operate outside of NHS Trusts / ICBs / Health Boards and typically deliver services such as assessments, prescribing, post-diagnostic support, and therapy. Examples may include (but are not limited to) ADHD 360, Psychiatry UK, Clinical Partners, and Evolve Psychology. These providers may deliver services under direct contracts with the ICB, via framework agreements, or under the NHS Right to Choose pathway.

Our Response

1. Please find attached full year spend for years 2023/24; 2024/25; and 2025/26, split by provider. The following points should be noted.
 - This was for independent sector providers (ISP) only.
 - Services provided by ISP mostly do not give a breakdown between ADHD and autism, so figures shown is for total spend by these providers on all neurodivergent services
 - The 2025/26 figures may still be subject to change as often a time-lag of a few months in charges being received and processed by the ICB.
 - There will be neurodiversity services provided by local hospital foundation trusts, however funding provided to them is part of a wider block funding envelope and is not specifically broken down to individual service level such as ADHD/Autism.
2. On this occasion it is not possible 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 activity information requested.
3. NENC ICB does not hold any information around private assessments, treatment etc for ADHD and/or ASD, as private assessment and treatment is done between a patient and the provider directly. Patients within the NENC boundary that are referred under the NHS right to choose for ADHD and/or Autism assessments to providers out of area/not locally commissioned are hosted by an alternative ICB.

NENC ICB commissions Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust directly under an NHS Standard contract currently to provide Autism and ADHD assessments. The contract terms for both are 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027, with an option to extend for 2 years until 2029

We currently have the following contracts with non-NHS providers:

Accredited provider	
Neurospectrum	<i>Accredited Provider for Autism and ADHD assessments</i> : contract length is 3yrs + 2yrs, started 01/06/2026. This contract is an activity-based contract.
Commissioned support services for ASD and ADHD by ICB place	
ICB wide	<i>Daisy Chain & Skills for People – Key Worker</i> : block contract, ends 31/09/2026
Durham	<i>Daisy Chain - Family support</i> : block contract, start date 01/02/2026, end date 30/06/2027 <i>Autism in Mind – Autism sensory project</i> : 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2026 <i>Autism in Mind – Autism Hub</i> : 10/11/2021 – 09/11/2026
Gateshead	<i>Northumberland & Tyneside Mind</i> : £33,094, 2025/26, to provide post diagnostic support via psychoeducation to adults who have received an ADHD diagnosis
Newcastle	<i>Daisy Chain</i> : £60,000 2025/26 to provide post-diagnostic support via psychoeducation to adults who have received an autism diagnosis
North and North Cumbria	<i>Barnardo's – Young Peoples support service</i> : block contract, 01/04/2024 – 31/03/2027. <i>Autism in Mind – Autism Post diagnostic service</i> : block contract, 01/04/2026 – 31/03/2027. <i>Northumberland County Council HINT – Autism support</i> : block contract, 01/04/2026 – 31/03/2027.
Sunderland and South Tyneside	Autism Hub – Toby Henderson Trust: block contract, start date 14/01/2020, end date 13/01/2027. <i>Autism in Mind</i> have the following: - Autism Sensory Project: block contract, start 01/01/2022, end 31/12/2026. - Autism Hub: block contract, start 10/11/2021, end 09/11/2026.
Tees Valley	<i>Daisy Chain – provide Pre and Post-diagnostic support including peer support, hubs and Psychoeducation to people over the age of 16</i> : contract start date 01/05/2025, 2-year block contract. <i>Daisy Chain – Family support</i> : block contract 2yrs +1yr start date 01/12/2024, end date 30/11/2027

NENC ICB does not hold any information around private assessments, treatment, etc for ADHD and/or ASD, as private assessment and treatment is carried out between a patient and the provider directly. Patients within the NENC boundary who are referred under the NHS right to choose for ADHD and/or Autism assessments to providers out of area/not locally commissioned are hosted by an alternative ICB, not NENC ICB.

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**