

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-077

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

17 June 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 on 4 June 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, 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 2000, I would like to request the following information:

1. A copy of any policies, standard operating procedure or guidance that sets out how the Board identifies who qualifies as a foreign national or overseas visitor required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).
2. Please provide the results of the last audit of this policy and compliance levels with it. If such an audit has not been conducted within the last five years, please say so.
3. A copy of any policies that set out what steps are taken if a patient, eligible to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), seeks to access (or in fact has already accessed) services provided by the Board for which payment would be owed.
4. A copy of any policies, standard operating procedure or guidance which set out the steps taken to invoice a foreign national for any episode of care delivered by the Board which was not billed/ invoiced for prior to the episode of care being delivered.

A copy of any policies, standard operating procedure or guidance that set out the steps the Trust takes to collect unpaid debts where an episode/episodes of care have been provided to a foreign national.

5. Data which sets out the total amount (in GBP) for each of the last 3 calendar years that has been collected for the provision of any episode of care for a foreign national (i.e. any individual who is not entitled to that care free at the point of use).
 - a. Collected by the Board
 - b. Collected by a third party
 - c. That the Board has written off
6. The total amount (in GBP) which remains uncollected by the Board for the provision of any episode of care for a foreign national.

I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within twenty working days of your receipt of this request. If any part of the request exceeds the appropriate cost limit, kindly supply the material that can be disclosed within the limit and advise how I might refine or narrow the scope, in accordance with your duty to assist (Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance under the FOIA).

If clarification is required, please contact me at the earliest opportunity.

If you believe any exemption applies, please state the specific exemption, explain your reasoning, and release all disclosable information with redactions clearly marked and referenced.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you please justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the FOIA.

Our Response

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 information requested.

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 link to the Gov.UK website, which includes a page on paying for UK healthcare as part of an immigration application.

<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/who-needs-pay>

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 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**