

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–210

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

22 August 2024

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 19 August 2024 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).

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information “held” by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

1. Please can you therefore provide details of:
 - a. Whether (as at August 2024) any of the following are used in your ICB area to support children’s care: telehealth and telemedicine technologies, MHealth apps, health information technologies, remote monitoring technologies, digital healthcare devices, wearable devices and telemedicine devices and/or any other technologies designed to facilitate personalised medicine not detailed above.
 - b. The names/details of technologies being used.
 - c. The purposes for which such technologies are being used. NB we are not asking for detailed information about the operation or implementation of these technologies, but merely the broad purposes for which they are being used.
2. In your ICB area, please can you advise what information clinicians are given about how data collected by such technology is processed, for what purposes, and with whom it is shared. Again, we are asking for information in broad terms e.g. whether information is shared with commercial entities/third parties and the status of those entities ie technology provider but not the names of those entities.

3. Please can you confirm what information doctors and other health professionals in your ICB area give/are advised to give to child patients and/or their parents about the benefits and risks of using such technology generally/specifically.
4. Please can you confirm what information doctors and other health professionals in your ICB area give/are advised to give to child patients and/or their parents about how data collected by such technology is processed, for what purposes, and with whom it is shared.
5. Please can you provide copies of all policies and documents that have been developed by or within the ICB with a view to ensuring that when NHS staff are advocating the use of such technology, children and parents' information is processed in accordance with the UKGDPR.
6. Please can you advise what information is currently provided within your ICB area for the child patients and their parents to refer to should they have any queries about how data collected by such technologies is used and by whom.
7. Please can you advise what advice is provided to clinicians in your ICB area about the response they should give where a child patient or their parent does not wish to use such technologies/wishes to opt out of data collection or sharing related to the use of such technologies.

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.

However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute and mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region. The FTs use the patient engagement platforms referred to in the request and as such they are the data controllers for their patients.

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 and mental health 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

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT	tewv.foi@nhs.net

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 faithfully

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer