

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB768

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

Tel: 0191 301 1300
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By Email

21/02/2024

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 Freedom of Information (FOI) request received by the North East and the North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) on 14/02/2024.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & 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

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the community health services for speech and language.

Please can you provide the following in the format of an Excel spreadsheet:

- 1. The total number of patients currently on the waiting list to receive speech and language therapy services.**
- 2. A breakdown of the waiting list by age groups (0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-18 years, 18+ years) for the latest calendar year 2023.**
- 3. A breakdown of the number of patients by age group waiting from referral to first appointment:**
 - a. 0-1 weeks (0-7 days)**
 - b. 1-2 weeks (8-14 days)**

- c. 2-4 weeks (15-28 days)
- d. 4-12 weeks (29-84 days)
- e. 12-18 weeks (85-126 days)
- f. 18-52 weeks (127-364 days)
- g. Over 52 weeks (over 365days)

4. Historical data on the waiting list – the total number of patients waiting for speech and language services, a breakdown by age group and weeks waiting for 2019, 2020 and 2021 or the latest year for when records began.

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.

The provider organisations may hold the requested information you can contact them via email. These are listed in the table below:

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & 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 & 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

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 make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Information Governance Officer using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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

Yours sincerely

Ehren Smith

Ehren Smith
Information Governance Officer