

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-079

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

27 May 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 20 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 writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide copies of the exact current policy documents used by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) and/or its predecessor commissioning organisations that set out the funding criteria for:

1. Breast implant removal for clinical indications (including rupture, pain, capsular contracture, infection, or other complications).
2. Breast implant replacement following NHS-funded primary surgery.
3. Criteria used to determine when replacement is commissioned versus removal only.
4. Any related Individual Funding Request (IFR) policy or guidance specifically applicable to breast implant revision or replacement procedures.

To be clear, I am requesting the ****full policy documents in PDF format or equivalent****, including any “Value Based Commissioning”, “Service Restriction”, “Prior Approval”, or “Clinical Commissioning Policy” documents currently in use.

If these documents are split across multiple policies, please provide each relevant document in full rather than summaries or extracts, or direct links to the exact published PDFs.

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

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If any part of the requested information is exempt from disclosure, please provide the remainder of the documents with exemptions clearly marked and specify the exemption applied.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. The ICB's policy document 'Value Based Clinical Commissioning (VBCC) Policy' is attached and sets out the funding criteria.
2. The ICB's VBCC policy sets out the criteria.
3. The criteria is detailed in the VBCC policy.
4. The IFR guidelines are detailed in the VBCC policy.

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**