

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–035

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

30 April 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 24 April 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. Whether your Integrated Care Board has any funding policies regarding lymphoedema surgery, which includes the following procedures:
 - a. Lymphovenous anastomosis (LVA) – including any performed concurrently with other procedures, such as axillary dissection in breast cancer for prevention of lymphoedema
 - b. Vascularised lymph node transfer
 - c. Liposuction for lymphoedema
2. The specifics of any funding provided for lymphoedema surgery.

Our Response

1. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested. However, the policy on Lymphoedema treatments is detailed within our Value Based Clinical Commissioning (VBCC) Policy (pages 142-143) and is publicly available on the ICB's website: [icbp040-value-based-commissioning-policy-14.pdf](#)

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

- a. This procedure is not commissioned by the NHS in England and is currently not supported by NICE (*NICE IP overview: Lymphovenous anastomosis during axillary or inguinal lymph node dissection for preventing secondary lymphoedema (NICE 2023)(IP 1893)*).
- b. The procedure for Vascularised lymph node transfer is not included in the VBCC policy.
- c. Liposuction for lymphoedema is covered within our VBCC policy. There are no criteria and the procedure is not routinely funded.

2. Please refer to the responses to questions 1a to 1c.

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**