

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–196

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 August 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 21 July 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

1. *Community Dermatology Service Provision:* Does your ICB currently commission a community dermatology service? If yes, please provide:
 - a. The name of the provider(s)
 - b. Contract start and end dates
 - c. Whether the service is consultant-led or GPwER-led
 - d. The procurement route used (e.g. competitive tender, direct award).
 - e. Whether the service is block, activity, cost-and-volume or other.
2. *Contract Value:* Please provide the annual contract value (or most recent annual expenditure) for all community dermatology services commissioned by the ICB.
3. *Independent Sector and Patient Choice Providers:* Which independent providers are currently available to patients through the NHS e-Referral Service (Patient Choice) for dermatology services within your ICB area? Please provide provider names and service types where available.
4. *Activity and Referral Volumes:* For the most recent complete financial year, please provide:
 1. Number of referrals to commissioned community dermatology services
 2. Number of referrals made under Patient Choice to independent dermatology providers.

5. *Future Procurement Plans:* Are there any planned procurements, recommissioning exercises, contract extensions, or market engagement activities relating to community dermatology services within the next 24 months? If yes, please provide details and expected timelines.

Our Response

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.

For your reference, the Foundation Trust and Independent Sector Provider Services are consultant-led. The Foundation Trust contracts were awarded under PSR DAP A and the Independent Sector Provider contracts were awarded under PSR DAP B. Other contracts were awarded under PSR DAP C.

There are no community or tele dermatology services commissioned in Newcastle Gateshead and Northumberland and North Tyneside places.

There are community dermatology services in County Durham, North Cumbria, South Tyneside and Sunderland and Tees Valley and previously provided the same in our responses to [FOI ICB 25-101](#) and [FOI ICB25-108](#) and these responses are publicly available. Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means

Where we do hold additional information relating to questions 1 to 3, it is noted below for these places. Responses to questions 4 and 5 are ICB wide responses.

North Cumbria

1. In North Cumbria, the provider is Carlisle Healthcare/ Cumbria Medical Services (CMS). The contract start and end dates are 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, the service is GPwER led and the procurement route was Direct Award C. The service is block contract.
2. The annual contract value is £918,292.41.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.

County Durham and South Tyneside and Sunderland

1. Community Dermatology Service are provided within the central neighbourhood.
 - a. In South Tyneside and Sunderland, the service provider is South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust at Bunny Hill Primary Care Centre, 1st floor, Hylton Lane, Sunderland, SR5 4BW.)

County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) provide community dermatology services across County Durham and Darlington. According to the service specification, the below locations are used to deliver the service, however for more information please contact the provider directly:

Dermatology services are currently delivered in Darlington, Derwentside, Dales and Easington.

The Derwentside service currently delivers 4 satellite clinics located in Leadgate, Craghead, Medomsley and Burnhope. Minor surgery is combined with dermatology and is delivered by a GPwSI (GP with a specialist interest) and a dermatology specialist nurse. An

associate specialist from UHND (University Hospital of North Durham) also delivers a clinic on alternate weeks.

The Darlington Service is based in Dr Piper House and is delivered by a team of nurses and GPwSI.

Bishop Auckland and Crook service is delivered by a GPwSI.

Easington service, based in Seaham will provide two minor surgery sessions per week by GPwSI and one Dermatology session per week by GPwSI and one session per week associate specialist from University Hospital North Durham. There will also be nurse led clinics provide by a dermatology specialist nurse.

The service at Dr Piper House Walk in Centre, Darlington is delivered by a Specialist Skin Cancer Surgeon supported by registered qualified nursing team and dedicated admin support.

The service at The Eden Centre, Coundon is delivered by a Specialist Skin Cancer Surgeon supported by registered qualified nursing team and dedicated admin support.

The service at Barnard Castle Surgery is delivered by a Specialist Skin Cancer Surgeon supported by registered qualified nursing team and dedicated admin support.

The service at Ferryhill Surgery is delivered by a GPwSI supported by registered qualified nursing/health care team and dedicated admin support.

The provider Cestria Health Centre is located at Whitehill Way, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 3DJ.

In addition, GP practices across the Central Neighbourhoods area provide a tele-dermatology service through a locally commissioned incentive scheme operating within a wider primary care specification.

- b. The tele-dermatology service delivered by GP practices forms part of a wider locally commissioned primary care specification and was not procured separately.
 - c. The community dermatology contract is for 3 years to 31 March 2027, with an option to extend for a further 2 years. The GP practice tele-dermatology service forms part of an annually reviewed local incentive scheme within primary care.
 - d. The service is consultant led. The tele-dermatology service provided through GP practices is delivered within primary care and supported by specialist advice and guidance arrangements where appropriate.
 - e. The community dermatology service is paid on a block contract basis, with no breakdown available for individual service lines. The GP practice tele-dermatology service is funded through a wider local incentive scheme and a separate payment value is not identified.
2. The community dermatology service is commissioned as part of a block contract and a separate annual contract value for dermatology is not available. The GP practice tele-dermatology pathway is commissioned through a wider local incentive scheme and a separate contract value is not held.
 3. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust provide the tele-dermatology pathway for Durham, Sunderland patients and some South Tyneside patients.

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides the tele-dermatology pathway for some South Tyneside patients.

Patients may also access dermatology services through the NHS e-Referral Service under Patient Choice arrangements. The ICB does not maintain a definitive list of all providers available through e-RS as availability may vary over time and by referral criteria.

South

Please refer to the information provided in the ICB's response to FOI ICB 25-101 and FOI ICB25-108 (links above).

ICB wide response

4. The ICB can confirm, in accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that it does not hold the requested information relating to:
- Number of referrals to commissioned community dermatology services and to GP practice tele-dermatology services.
 - Number of referrals made under Patient Choice to independent dermatology providers.

Dermatology Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting time performance data is publicly available at [Statistics » Referral to Treatment \(RTT\) Waiting Times](#). Therefore, the ICB considers this element of your request exempt from disclosure by way of s.21 as the information is readily accessible by other means.

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 contacts for NHS acute hospital foundation trusts in the NENC region who may also hold information on commissioned community dermatology services.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
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	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

5. All contracting opportunities and their corresponding documents with NENC ICB are advertised on the Atamis e-tendering platform <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome> as well as the governments Central Digital Platform <https://www.gov.uk/find-tender>.

We recommend providers register company details via these platforms to be kept up to date and alerted to opportunities. There are no restrictions under the current regulations for sole traders for taking part in these opportunities.

If services fall within elective services led by a consultant or mental health care professional where the ICB has a legal duty to provide patients with a choice of provider, providers

should follow the instructions below in order to express an interest to deliver the healthcare services.

How to express an interest in delivering services to North East and North Cumbria ICB under Patient Choice

Please follow the below steps:

- A. Log in to the supplier portal at <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>
- B. Locate the opportunity in 'Find Opportunities' – (Patient Choice Accreditation 2 - North East and North Cumbria ICB (Project Reference Number – **C350309**))
- C. Select 'Register Interest' – 'Confirm'.
- D. From your Home page select 'Click Here' under 'My Proposals and Quotes'.
- E. The questions are located within the 'Requirements Section'
- F. Once all questions are completed, please click on 'Submit'.

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**