

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–162

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

15 July 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 2 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

In light of the Health and Care Act 2022 and the statutory responsibility for Integrated Care Boards (ICB) to arrange for the provision of palliative care for your population, we request the following information regarding Palliative and End of Life Care (PEoLC) in general, and charitable hospice services in particular, within your system.

1. Do you have a palliative care and end of life care specific strategy or plan within your system? Please choose one or more of the following and include the document link or attachment:
 - a. Yes, at ICB level
 - b. Yes, multiple at Place level
 - c. No
 - d. In development
 - e. Other – please specify what
2. Where are charitable hospice provider contracts held within your system? Please only consider contracts with charitable hospices not NHS Trust provided hospices, but please include both adult and children's hospices. Please choose one or more of the following:
 - a. Hospice contracts are held by the ICB
 - b. Hospice contracts are held by place-based ICB structures
 - c. Hospice contracts are sub-contracted by NHS Trusts or other providers

- d. Other – please specify what
3. What types of contract do you use with charitable hospice providers? Please choose one or more of the following:
- NHS standard contract which is:
 - annual
 - multi-year
 - block funding
 - bed or activity based funding
 - includes risk sharing around activity thresholds
 - grant or service level agreement, which is:
 - block funding
 - bed or activity-based funding
 - fast-track continuing healthcare funding
 - continuing care funding (children)
 - other – please specify what
4. What was the total value of all these charitable hospice contracts for 2025-26?
- for adult services
 - for children and young people's services
5. Do you have a data dashboard across your system that includes specialist palliative care and end of life care? Please choose one of the following:
- data dashboard – specialist palliative care and end of life care included
 - data dashboard – specialist palliative care and end of life care not included (please state whether there are plans for expansion)
 - no data dashboard
 - other – please specify what
6. Has your system carried out a population needs assessment specifically including palliative and end of life care? Please include the document link or attachment:
- Yes
 - No
 - Other – please specify what
7. Does your system have a neighbourhood health pilot related to the end-of-life priority cohort? If yes, is your local specialist palliative care provider involved?
- Yes, neighbourhood health pilot is related to the end-of-life priority cohort and specialist palliative care provider involved
 - Yes, neighbourhood health pilot is related to the end-of-life priority cohort, but specialist palliative care provider not involved
 - No, neighbourhood health pilot is not related to end-of-life priority cohort
 - No, no neighbourhood health pilot in our system
8. Does your system have a single point of access (SPoA) to palliative and end of life care advice and support?
- Yes, for just health professionals to call
 - Yes, for health professionals, patients and families to call
 - Yes, for just patients and families to call
 - No

9. If you answered yes to question 8, does your single point of access (SPoA) provide access to all palliative and end of life care services in the area?
- Yes, all services and it covers 100% of the system's geography
 - Yes, all services but it does not cover 100% of the system's geography
 - No but it covers 100% of the system's geography
 - No and it does not cover 100% of the system's geography

Our Response

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

- At ICB level, the ICB has a clinical network plan in place. A strategic commissioning plan is in development.
- Hospice contracts are held by the ICB.
- The ICB holds the following contracts:
 - NHS standard contract which is multi-year, block funding and bed or activity based funding.
 - Grant or service level agreement, which is block funding
 - Fast-track continuing healthcare funding
 - Continuing care funding (children)
- Contract values for charitable hospice contracts for 2025/26 were zero for both adult services and or children and young people's services.
- Yes, the NENC ICB data dashboard is specialist palliative care; end of life care is not included. This does not identify SPC inpatient or community activity specifically as it is more outcome focussed.
- Yes, the ICB has carried out a population needs assessment specifically including palliative and end of life care. This is assessment is publicly available on the ICB's website: [Palliative and end of life care](#). 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.
- No, the neighbourhood health pilot is not related to the end-of-life priority cohort.
- No, NENC does not have a single point of access (SPoA) to palliative and end of life care advice and support. Each ICB place has its own arrangements.
- Please refer to the response to question 8. Each ICB place has its own arrangements and covers the NENC region.

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**