

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-001

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

7 April 2025

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 31 March 2025 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 you on behalf of the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We are seeking information on the agreed standards of spinal cord injury (SCI) care and any relevant policies for the district general hospitals (DGHs) within your Integrated Care Board (ICB) network. We are asking all 42 ICBs for this information to provide us with a national stance on the SCI care/ policy picture across the DGHs in England.

To support our work in improving SCI care across England, we kindly request the following information:

Information Requested

1. Do the district general hospitals within your ICB region have specific policies and/ or agreed standards in place for the management of patients with spinal cord injuries? Yes/ No. If yes, please provide:
 - a. A copy of these standards or a link to where they can be accessed
 - b. If separate policies exist for different hospitals, please specify which hospitals they apply to.If no specific SCI care standards or policies exist within your ICB or district general hospitals, please confirm this.

2. Has your ICB region conducted any audits or evaluations of SCI care in district general hospitals within the last three years? Yes/ No
3. Within your ICB network, do the district general hospitals have established referral pathways to their respective, regional, spinal cord injury centre? Yes/ No. *If yes, please confirm which district general hospital(s) the answer refers to.
4. Does the ICB currently have any strategic plans or ongoing projects aimed at improving SCI care within its network for the financial year 2025/2026? Yes/No
5. Within the ICB network, are there any collaborations with specialist SCI centres, charities, or professional bodies to enhance SCI care? Yes/ No. *If yes – please specify:
6. Is training or education on SCI care provided for healthcare professionals carried out in the district general hospitals within your ICB? Yes/ No. *If yes, please state which district general hospital(s) are completing the SCI education and/or training.
7. If the answer to the above question was YES, please state the different training programmes being delivered:

If it is not possible to provide any part of this information within the cost limits set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, please provide what information you can within these limits.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by NHS England.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the FOI email address for NHS England is england.contactus@nhs.net Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

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 Senior 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**