

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–204

**North East and North Cumbria ICB**  
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Tel: 0191 512 8484  
E-mail: [nencicb.foi@nhs.net](mailto:nencicb.foi@nhs.net)

By Email

9 September 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 20 August 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 would like to request information regarding a review of the North East and North Cumbria ICB's finances carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte as part of NHS England's investigate and implement regime. Please provide me with:

1. The full output of the review, including the report or presentation of recommendations delivered to the organisation.
2. The management response or action plan produced by your organisation in response to the review.
3. The contract or engagement documentation with for this work, including the statement of work, deliverables, timetable, total agreed value, day rates if held, invoices submitted or paid, and any variations.

**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.

1. The North East and North Cumbria (NENC) ICB has not been part of NHS England's investigation and implementation (I&I) regime. NENC ICB did however commission

[www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk) 

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PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) to support the NENC Integrated Care System (ICS) with a review of financial grip and control arrangements which was based around the NHS England I&I process.

Deloitte were not commissioned to perform any of this work but had previously been engaged to support the development of a medium-term financial plan across the ICS.

The work performed by PWC focused on the following areas:

- Review of PMO and depth of current cost improvement programmes, including identification of weaknesses within the FY24/25 *efficiency plans*, and corrective action required to remedy these weaknesses. As part of this review, we expect an assessment of confidence for total delivery for each organisation and specific consideration of material schemes. Additionally, we expect an opinion on the trusts risk appetite to savings schemes and the confidence in the teams, tools and processes they have to delivery;
- Identification of weaknesses within the FY24/25 financial plans and suggest corrective action to remedy these weaknesses, looking at pay and non-pay (iv). In this review a review against M4 should highlight the recurrent movement from plan but also provide detail on exceptional items that have impacted in 24/25.
- Consideration of the governance in place around delivery of the system's FY24/25 financial plan.

The work was focused on a number of provider organisations within the Integrated Care System (ICS), rather than on the ICB.

For your reference, we have provided the contact details for acute and mental health provider trusts below:

<b>NENC Acute Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email</b>
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	<a href="mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net">cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net</a>
Gateshead Health NHS FT	<a href="mailto:ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net">ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net</a>
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk">foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk</a>
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foi@nth.nhs.uk">foi@nth.nhs.uk</a>
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foi@northumbria.nhs.uk">foi@northumbria.nhs.uk</a>
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foi@stees.nhs.uk">foi@stees.nhs.uk</a>
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	<a href="mailto:stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net">stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net</a>
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	<a href="mailto:nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net">nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net</a>

<b>NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email</b>
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foi@cntw.nhs.uk">foi@cntw.nhs.uk</a>
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT	<a href="mailto:tewv.foi@nhs.net">tewv.foi@nhs.net</a>

In addition, the FOI contact details for NHS England are [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net), should you wish to contact them directly. Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

2. As per the response to question 1, the work was focused on a number of provider organisations within the Integrated Care System (ICS), rather than on the ICB. NENC ICB does not hold this information.
3. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 contains a number of exemptions that allow a public authority to withhold certain information from release. Some of the requested information

is exempt under s.43(2) of the FOIA2000 as disclosure is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of a person as defined by the Act.

The s.43(2) exemption applies to question 3. The request for the output of the review and relevant contract documentation has been considered against the Public Interest Test: Section 43(2) – commercial interests.

*The factors in favour of disclosure:*

- Disclosure would promote openness, accountability and transparency on details which may be of interest or affect the public.

*The factors in favour of non-disclosure:*

- NENC ICB has a duty of confidence to all its partners, suppliers and customers.
- Disclosure of information which would be likely to impact the commercial interests of any company commissioned or contracted to deliver a service on behalf of NENC ICB, would be detrimental not only to the impacted company but also harm supplier confidence of other NENC ICB contract holders, if they determined contractual or commercial information would be released into the public domain without merit.
- Information on the scope of the work has been provided above and information on the cost of work is provided below.

On balance, the public interest in maintaining these exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Although the contract documentation is considered commercially sensitive, we can confirm PWC were engaged via the Crown Commercial Service Management Consultancy Framework Three (MCF3) (RM61876), Lot 4: Finance. The total fee agreed and paid to PWC was £196k (excluding VAT).

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](http://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](http://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**