

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–510

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

11 March 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 5 March 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 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding applications for new pharmacy premises within the North East and North Cumbria ICB area.

1. The number of applications received for new community pharmacy premises (including distance-selling pharmacies where applicable) within the NENC ICB area in the last 5 years.
2. A list of these applications including:
 - Date of application
 - Location (town/postcode if available)
 - Type of application (e.g. new pharmacy, relocation, distance-selling)
 - Outcome of the application (granted, refused, pending)
 - Date of decision (if applicable)
3. Any currently pending applications for new pharmacy premises within the ICB area, including the location and date of application.
4. Any guidance, policies, or internal criteria used by the ICB when assessing applications for new pharmacy premises under the relevant pharmaceutical regulations.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please provide the information available within the limit and advise how the request could be refined.

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. There have been 109 applications for new pharmacy premises received since 1 April 2021.
2. A list of these applications including the following is shown in the attached spreadsheet. The data/spreadsheet includes details of any pending applications for new pharmacy premises.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. 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, NENC ICB uses national guidance and links to that guidance are noted below:

Pharmacy Manual: [NHS England » Pharmacy Manual](#)

NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013: [The National Health Service \(Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) Regulations 2013](#)

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.

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**