

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-057

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

23 May 2024

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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 2 May 2025 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information “held” by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

The NICE Hypertension Guidelines recommend that adult patients with hypertension are referred to Secondary Care Hypertension Specialists when further investigations are likely to change management decisions, where there is associated life-threatening target organ damage or when patients have suspected secondary hypertension, hypertension resistant to treatment or where they have complex polypharmacy. These details have been summarised in the attached position paper published in the Journal of Human Hypertension (9 January 2024); [Adult hypertension referral pathway and therapeutic management: British and Irish Hypertension Society position statement \(bihsoc.org\)](#)

Questions:

1. Within your ICS/ICB, which secondary/tertiary care centres are recognised as providing expert advice on the management of hypertension?

Please state the names of the Departments or Units and the lead specialists for the services including their institutional addresses, and whether these services are commissioned by the individual ICB/S's.

2. Within your ICS/ICB, to whom are patients referred who have had a past history of hypertension in pregnancy which is still elevated 1 year after delivery?

Please state the names of the Departments or Units and the lead specialists for the services including their institutional addresses.

3. Does your ICS/ICB provide information to GPs about the availability of local secondary/care specialist hypertension services and who should be referred?
4. Does your ICS/ICB consider that the provision of secondary care specialist hypertension services is adequate for the population served?

Response by email please.

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. On this occasion it is not possible to provide all the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, renal services are commissioned across NENC within acute providers. However, we confirm the ICB does not hold names of the departments and lead specialists for the services.

NENC ICB does not hold the records which you have sought. However, we have determined the records are held by Acute Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & 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 & Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

2. Patients are referred to acute trusts within NENC ICB. We confirm the ICB does not hold names of the departments and lead specialists for the services. However, we have determined

the records are held by Acute Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts within the North East and North Cumbria region. Please redirect your queries to the Trusts listed in our response to question 1.

3. Yes, all GP practices are sighted on who to refer to where appropriate.
4. NENC ICB has no comment on this question.

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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer