

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–117

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

15 July 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 26 June 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 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information related to the Independent Oversight Group (IOG), established by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) in October 2023 to oversee the implementation of the Dame Marianne Griffiths review recommendations (published July 2023) for the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS).

Specifically, I request the following:

1. Minutes or notes from all IOG meetings held between October 2023 and July 2024.
2. Any correspondence between NENC ICB, NEAS, and the IOG regarding the implementation of the Griffiths review's 18 recommendations from October 2023 to July 2024.

I note that in response to my previous FOI request to NEAS (FOI.25.214, dated 24 June 2025), **NEAS stated that the minutes of the IOG meetings are held by NENC ICB**. Therefore, I am requesting these records from your organisation.

Given the public interest in transparency due to the severity of the NEAS scandal, including allegations of covered-up patient deaths, whistleblower concerns, systemic failures, and families' disappointment, I emphasize the importance of providing this information.

If any parts of these documents contain exempt information, such as personal data under Section 40, please provide the documents with the exempt information redacted, along with a detailed explanation of the public interest test conducted for any exemptions applied.

Please acknowledge receipt of this request and respond within 20 working days, as per the FOIA.

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. 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, this was released to you recently in response to FOI ICB 25-106. NENC ICB does not hold copies of any other IOG meeting minutes.
2. Email correspondence between NENC ICB, NEAS, and the IOG regarding the implementation of the Griffiths review's 18 recommendations, from October 2023 to July 2024, is attached to this letter.

Names of individuals in those records are exempt from disclosure under s.40(2) of the FOIA2000 as it would constitute personal data as defined by Article 4(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Section 40(8) of FOIA confirms that for the purposes of considering disclosure, a public authority may consider the legitimate interest's lawful basis for processing. In considering the balance between identified legitimate interests and the rights and interests of the individuals concerned, we must consider if the proposed disclosure would be within the reasonable expectations of the individual when the data was collected.

We believe that disclosure of the personal information relating to these individuals would be contrary to the requirements of Article 5(1)(a) of the GDPR; namely that information must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner. These individuals would have no expectation that this information would be made publicly available, and we have not identified a lawful basis that would allow or require us to disclose this information.

We have followed the Information Commissioner's guidance in assessing whether it is fair to disclose the information under FOIA. This involves considering the nature of the information, the expectations of, and potential harm (of disclosure) to, the data subjects, and how any legitimate public interest in this information is balanced against the rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

In considering a disclosure under FOIA, we must consider that any information released under the Act will be placed in the public domain, through our own disclosure log or by other means. Where information has been removed from the accompanying file, we have replaced the text with a black rectangle.

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**