

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 26-022

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

29 April 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 20 April 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**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information for the last 10 years (or the longest period available if full 10-year data is not held):

1. The total number of Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) received by the ICB.
2. The number of IFRs that were declined.
3. Of those declined IFRs, the number that were appealed.
4. Of the appeals submitted, the number that were upheld (i.e., overturned in favour of funding the request).

If possible, please also provide any available breakdown by year. If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit under the Act, please advise how I may refine the request to bring it within scope.

**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 total number of Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) received by the ICB, where held are:

2019/20	2640
2020/21	961
2021/22	1191
2022/23	1145
2023/24	927
2024/25	861
2025/26	697

Please note this is the total amount of IFRs for each financial year where a decision was rendered.

Not included are requests that were not completed or still active at this time. This can include cases: that were rejected as not appropriate for IFR (Prior Approval or commissioned service available), withdrawn by referrer before a decision was made, closed by the IFR service after requests for further information were not responded to.

2. The number of IFRs that were declined are:

2019/20	1019
2020/21	419
2021/22	669
2022/23	748
2023/24	619
2024/25	579
2025/26	598

3. The term used in our IFR process is "Reconsideration" this is for cases that have been declined and the clinician presents new clinical information to be considered. An "Appeal" in our process relates to appealing against the process in which a decision is made and not the outcome, i.e. was the request considered in accordance with the IFR Policy.

Reconsideration of IFRs is not recorded by NENC ICB. This is because quantifying reconsideration requests is very difficult for many reasons, such as:

- Requests maybe submitted sometime after the original decision is made;
- Reconsideration is requested via a new IFR rather than on the original IFR;
- Request could be resubmitted without new information.

4. Please refer to the response to question 3.

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**