

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–016

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

30 April 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 8 April 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 to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide the following details relating to Adult ADHD and Adult Autism assessment services commissioned by your ICB:

1. Waiting List Data:
Please provide the most recent available data for:
 - a. The total number of patients currently on the waiting list for Adult ADHD assessments.
 - b. The total number of patients currently on the waiting list for Adult Autism assessments.
 - c. The average and maximum waiting times for each of the above services.
2. Right to Choose (RTC) Contracts:
The number of Right to Choose contracts issued by your ICB for Adult ADHD and Adult Autism assessments in the last 12 months.
3. Financial Spend – Adult ADHD Assessments For the most recent 12-month period
 - a. The total value of spend on Adult ADHD assessments through core block contracts.
 - b. The total value of spend on Adult ADHD assessments with Right to Choose providers.
4. Financial Spend – Adult Autism Assessments For the most recent 12-month period:

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- a. The total value of spend on Adult Autism assessments through core block contracts.
 - b. The total value of spend on Adult Autism assessments with Right to Choose providers.
5. Assessment Activity – Right to Choose vs Block Contracts For the same 12-month period
The volume (number of assessments completed) for both Adult ADHD and Adult Autism under:
- a. Core block contract provision
 - b. Right to Choose arrangements

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 on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) 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 foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Mental Health Hospital FTs	Email
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS FT (CNTW)	foi@cntw.nhs.uk
Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS FT (TEWV)	tewv.foi@nhs.net

Please note that we do hold some information for TEWV and this is noted below:

- a. Patients currently on the waiting list for Adult ADHD assessments.
 - 3041 for County Durham (TEWV)
 - 1362 for Tees Valley (TEWV)
 - b. Total number of patients currently on the waiting list for Adult Autism assessments.
 - 2700 for County Durham (TEWV)
 - 1112 for Tees Valley (TEWV)
 - c. Average and maximum waiting times for each of the above services:
 - Adult autism:
 - County Durham – average is 633 days and maximum is 1888 days
 - Tees Valley – average for adult autism is 766 days, maximum is 1964
 - Adult ADHD
 - County Durham – 587 days average and 2237 days maximum
 - Tees Valley - average for adult autism is 729 days, maximum is 2362
2. There have been no contracts issued for Adult ADHD and Adult Autism assessments in the last 12 months.
 3. Costs via the Block contracts are not broken down to individual services, therefore the ICB cannot provide total spend for Adult ADHD Assessments or Adult Autism Assessments.

The total payments made to Right to Choose (RTC) providers for all ADHD & Autism services in the 2024/25 financial year was £9,999,949.

4. Records for services provide by RTC providers do not support a breakdown of costs between ADHD or Autism; Adult's or Children's; or assessments or follow-up/review appointments.
5. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able to provide the requested information in regard to Right to Choose and core block contract provision. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm the ICB does not hold any of the information requested. However, we have determined that the information is held by the mental health hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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**