

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–507

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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Sunderland
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By Email

20 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

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information relating to contracts, procurements, direct awards and conflicts of interest involving People First Independent Advocacy (also trading as People First / Healthwatch Cumberland / Healthwatch Westmorland and Furness) and their CEO, for the period 1 January 2023 to present:

1. Contracts / Procurement Decisions

Please provide details of all contracts, purchase orders, direct awards or procurement decisions made by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board where the supplier was People First Independent Advocacy or where their CEO was involved.

For each contract or direct award, please include:

- Contract / procurement title or description
- Award reference number
- Whether the contract was competitively tendered or directly awarded
- Supplier name and registered address
- Contract start and end dates
- Contract value (total and value to the ICB)
- Name / role of decision-maker and date of decision

- Any associated conflict of interest declarations

2. Conflict of Interest Records

Please provide copies of:

- All conflict-of-interest disclosure forms, registers, declarations, or minutes relating to procurement decisions involving People First Independent Advocacy or their CEO.
- Any recorded management actions taken where a conflict was identified.

3. The Well Contract

If the ICB has entered into any contract, funding agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other financial arrangement with The Well (or any related entity) involving People First Independent Advocacy or their CEO, please provide the relevant documentation and award details.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. Contract details held by NENC ICB are included on the attached spreadsheet.
2. 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. All employees are required to complete an annual declaration of interest form, and the Board register is publicly available on the ICB's website. <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/corporate-information/governance/conflict-of-interests/>

The previous board register of interests is available using this link: [board-register-of-interests-october-2024.pdf](#)

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.

3. Details of the Well Contract is included in the spreadsheet shared in response to question 1.

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**