

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–238

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

24 August 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 9 August 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

Please see below Freedom of Information Request regarding all NHS Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) and/or Long Covid Service(s) commissioned within your Integrated Care Board area.

For each named service, both currently commissioned and planned, (placing currently commissioned period details and planned period detailed on separate rows), please provide the following information in either Excel or CSV format:

1. The name by which the ME/CFS and/or Long Covid Service is known.
2. The name of the contract holder for ME/CFS and or Long Covid Service.
3. The start date, duration in months, and end date of the contract.
4. Details of any extension options, break clauses, or other mechanisms that may alter the contract end date.
5. The name of the commissioning team or department, within the ICB, who is responsible for the service.
6. Whether the service is exclusively for ME/CFS and / or Long Covid (Yes/No). If “No”, please list the other conditions included in the service, separated by “;”.
7. The clinical speciality that the services fall under, within the hospital or clinic (please select from below):

- Endocrinology
 - General Internal Medicine
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Mental Health
 - Neurology
 - Pain Management
 - Paediatrics
 - Post Acute Infectious Conditions
 - Rehabilitation Medicine
 - Rheumatology
 - Specialist Long-Term Conditions
 - Other – please specify.
8. Whether the service is currently accepting referrals (Y/N).
 9. The severity levels of ME/CFS that can be accommodated by the service, from: Mild; Moderate; Severe; and Very Severe. See NICE Guideline 206 - Box 1 for definition of ME/CFS severity levels.
 10. The scheduled performance review date(s) for the service, including any planned service reviews, pathway reviews, or needs assessments.
 11. Names of any ME/CFS patient groups you have consulted with in the last twelve months in relation to this named service provision.

If exact dates are not available, please provide the most recent available information or indicative timelines. If any of this information is already publicly available, I would be grateful if you could direct me to the relevant documents.

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. Please refer to the spreadsheet attached.
2. Please refer to the spreadsheet attached.
3. Please refer to the spreadsheet attached.
4. Please refer to the spreadsheet attached.
5. Please refer to the spreadsheet attached.
6. 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 acute 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 contacts for those foundation trusts.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
County Durham and 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 and Hartlepool NHS FT	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

7. Please refer to the response to question 6.
8. Please refer to the response to question 6.
9. Please refer to the response to question 6.
10. Please refer to the response to question 6.
11. Please refer to the response to question 6.

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**