

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-012

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

23 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 7 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we formally request the following information:

1. Detailed funding calculations for the 2025/26 LES contract for:
 - Tees Valley
 - Durham and Darlington
 - South Tyneside
2. The methodology used to determine LES funding allocations, including:
 - Weighting for deprivation, patient population, and historic investment for this year and if possible, also for the last 5 years
 - Justification for any disparities between Tees Valley and neighbouring localities e.g. Durham and Tyneside for this year and if possible, for the last 5 years.
3. Minutes, reports, or correspondence where funding disparities were discussed, including any rationale for rejecting funding parity.
4. Meetings where PSA, MGUS and CLL were discussed when added to the LES.
5. Laws: Share info if/when the following laws were highlighted in discussions and the conclusions made.

NHS Act 2006 (Primary Legislation)

- Section 3 (Duty to provide primary medical services):

- *Relevance*: Argues ICB must ensure "adequate" GP services—underfunding LES risks breaching this duty.
- Section 14Z31 (ICB's duty to reduce inequalities):
 - *Relevance*: Funding disparities between Tees Valley/Durham may contravene statutory obligations.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012

- Section 23 (Duty to promote integration & equity):
 - *Relevance*: ICB must demonstrate how unequal LES funding aligns with integrated, equitable care.

NHS Constitution (Legally Binding under 2009 Act)

- Principle 4 ("Fairness & excellence"):
 - *Relevance*: Patients have the right to equitable access, regardless of geography.
- Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010, Section 149)
 - *Relevance*: ICB must assess how funding cuts disproportionately impact
- NHS England's "Core20PLUS5" Equity Framework
 - *Relevance*: Mandates ICBs to allocate resources to reduce inequalities

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested. This is detailed in the attached spreadsheet.

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**