

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–106

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

7 July 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 20 June 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, I request the following information regarding the Independent Oversight Group (IOG) overseeing the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS):

1. Minutes or notes for the IOG meetings held on 22 November 2023, 21 February 2024, and 20 March 2024, as confirmed by NEAS board papers (2023–2024), and the ICB's 17 January 2024 minutes.
2. The IOG report (July 2024), which summarises the IOG's activities and findings.
3. Records of family engagement activities related to the IOG (e.g., invitations, correspondence sent to family representatives), particularly for October 2023 to April 2024, given reported family disengagement in early 2024 (Chronicle Live, 6 August 2024).
4. Details of the appointment process for IOG Chair Graham Prestwich, including any conflict-of-interest assessments, given his NHS affiliations.
5. Any NEAS board papers (2023–2024) held by the ICB that reference IOG meetings or its activities.

These records are essential to assess the transparency of the IOG's oversight of NEAS's response to the Griffiths review (July 2023). The NEAS scandal, involving allegations of cover-ups and governance failures (Chronicle Live, 24 July 2024 and 6 August 2024), has generated significant public interest, and the ICB's role in ensuring accountability justifies this request. The

incomplete response to my previous FOI (FOI ICB 25–058) omitted these items, prompting this specific request to address unresolved gaps.

Please provide the information within 20 working days, as required by the FOIA. If any records are exempt, please specify the relevant exemptions and explain their application. I am happy to clarify or refine the request to reduce any burden.

## 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. Redacted IOG minutes for the meetings dated 22 November 2023 and 21 February 2024 were sent to you in our original response, along with minutes dated 27 October 2023 and 17 January 2024. NENC ICB does not hold IOG meeting minutes dated 20 March 2024.
2. We can confirm that NENC ICB does not hold a copy of the IOG report dated July 2024, however, the NEAS Independent Oversight Group – Final Report is available as part of the NEAS published Board papers of September 2024. A link to the papers is: [Board Papers September 2024.pdf](#). The item starts on page 222.
3. 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.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, you may wish to redirect your request to NEAS and NHS England who may hold this information. The email addresses for their FOI teams are noted below:

Organisation	Email	Notes
North East Ambulance Service NHS FT	<a href="mailto:publicrelations@neas.nhs.uk">publicrelations@neas.nhs.uk</a>	
NHS England	<a href="mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net">england.contactus@nhs.net</a>	Please write “Freedom of Information” in the subject line.NHS England

4. Please refer to the response to question 3.
5. Please refer to the response to question 3.

For your reference and in accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, a link to NEAS Board papers is [Board Papers: North East Ambulance Service](#)

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](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**