



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB517

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
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25 September 2023

Dear

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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 1 September 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I would like to know the percentage of referrals made by your ICB to Private Hospitals and Clinics versus NHS Hospitals and Clinics.

As I understand the process of referrals from many other ICBs, it is as follows:

- GP refers patient to secondary care for assessment and if appropriate treatment.
- Patient is sent patient choice letter – this must include 5 different options of provider, although patient can request/opt for another provider anywhere in England which is contracted to provide NHS services. Patients are directed to the My Planned Care website for information.
- The patient then chooses where they want to be treated and referral is sent to that provider.
- The provider treats the patient and then “invoices” the ICB for the activity – all providers whether NHS trusts or independent providers are paid the same tariff as published online.

This process means that you should be able to provide the analysis that I have asked for by use of the invoices you have received across the last 12 months or the last financial accounting period whichever is easiest.

Our Response

Our response is detailed in the spreadsheet attached with the caveats noted:

We are unable to give a percentage or 'versus' split between NHS and Private Hospitals based on the data we currently hold. Although we do hold referral data this is based on local flows received into the organisation and not every provider in our area sends the information so data may be incomplete across the ICB. We have provided what we hold on this basis for the period August 2022 to July 2023. Please also note the following:

Spreadsheet tab 1 – local flow referral data received into the organisation (not received from all providers)

Spreadsheet tab 2 – from SUS data (number of new outpatient attendances for ICB NHS patients by provider)

Should you wish to contact the acute trust providers directly, a list of trusts and FOI contact emails are noted in the table below.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & 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 & Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer