

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–419

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By Email

3 February 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 15 January 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**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding the financial flows and contractual arrangements between the ICB and its commissioned NHS Trusts for the provision of medical retina services, specifically concerning anti-VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) medicines [Appendix A].

Please provide answers to the following questions for each NHS Trust provider of Medical Retina services that the ICB commissions. Please provide the information electronically in Excel spreadsheet format, specifying the named NHS Trust for each set of answers.

1. Contractual Structure

- Are anti-VEGF drug costs currently reimbursed to the Trust via:
  - A pass-through mechanism (cost-and volume)?
  - A fixed block contract (inclusive of drug spend)?
  - An Aligned Incentive Contract (AIC) or "Blended Payment" model?
- If a blended/AIC model is used, what is the specific split between the fixed element and the variable (volume-based) element for high-cost anti-VEGF drugs?

## 2. Efficiency and Savings Incentives

- Is there a formal Gain-Share Agreement in place between the ICB and the Trust regarding the use of biosimilar anti-VEGF agents?
- If yes, what percentage of the saving is retained by the Trust vs. the ICB, is there a cap on total savings a provider can retain, and is the gainshare for new patients only?

## 3. Funding flows in 2026/27

- Are announced ICB arrangements for merger/cluster/split from April 2026 changing the anti-VEGF funding contractual structure and/or gain-share agreement with the Trust, and if so, how?
- What is the NHSE-recommended reference price for anti-VEGF drugs in your region, and is the ICB implementing this reference price with the Trust from April 2026?

### Appendix A: Medical Retina Drugs Covered by this Request

Please include data for the following agents in your response: Alfibercept, Ranibizumab, Faricimab, Bevacizumab, Brolucizumab.

## **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. Anti-VEGF drug costs are reimbursed to the Trust via a fixed block contract. A blended/AIC model is not used.
2. There is not a formal Gain-Share Agreement in place between the ICB and the Trust regarding the use of biosimilar anti-VEGF agents.
3. ICB arrangements for merger/cluster/split from April 2026 are not changing the anti-VEGF funding contractual structure and/or gain-share agreement with the Trust.

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](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**