

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-373

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 December 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 10 December 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

We are conducting research into NHS funding criteria for body contouring procedures following massive weight loss. I would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

For each of the questions below please provide any relevant policies and information regarding how long the policy has been in place and/or if a policy is being planned or considered or is potentially changing in the future:

1. Do you either routinely fund or provide criteria-based access to funding for any form of body contouring surgery e.g. apronectomy, following massive weight loss?
2. If you do provide criteria-based access, please provide details of the criteria, or where these details where this information can be found.
3. If you provide either criteria-based access or routine funding, is this just for apronectomy, or is access provided to other body contouring procedures after massive weightloss e.g. brachioplasty.
4. If you provide criteria-based funding, is any form of prior approval required before listing the patient.
5. How long has the current policy been in place, and are there any planned or pending changes to this policy?

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. The Apronectomy policy is detailed on page 122 of the attached Value Based Clinical Commissioning Policy (ICP040 – VBCC Policy (v14.0)).
2. Access to the surgery is not routinely funded. An individual funding request (IFR) is required.
3. Please refer to the information provided in the VBCC policy.
4. An IFR is required in all circumstances.
5. The policy was last updated and issued in July 2025 and is currently overdue for review.

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**