

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–499

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

2 April 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 16 March 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, please confirm whether the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board holds any recorded information relating to concerns raised about the management or communication of neurological diagnoses to patients previously under the care of Dr Michael Watt or those included in the Northern Ireland neurology recall programme.

If such information is held, please provide:

1. The date of the earliest recorded reference to such concerns held by the ICB.
2. The form of the document in which the reference appears (for example: email, briefing note, governance report, patient safety alert, or meeting minute).
3. Any governance documentation describing how such concerns were reviewed or escalated within the ICB or with NHS England.

This request relates only to recorded information held by the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

To clarify, this request does not relate to complaints about a GP or GP surgery.

Dr Michael Watt was a consultant neurologist rather than a GP. The request concerns whether the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board holds any recorded information relating to concerns raised about the management or communication of neurological diagnoses to patients previously under the care of Dr Michael Watt, or those included in the Northern Ireland neurology recall.

For the avoidance of doubt, this request relates to any information held by the ICB within its governance, commissioning, patient safety, or oversight functions. This includes information held within clinical governance, patient safety, or risk management systems.

This may include (but is not limited to):

- internal emails
- briefing notes
- governance reports
- patient safety discussions or alerts
- meeting minutes
- risk registers or safety reporting systems
- correspondence with NHS England or NHS Trusts

Please therefore confirm whether any such recorded information is held by the ICB between 1 July 2022 and the present date, and if so:

1. The date of the earliest recorded reference to such concerns.
2. The form of the document in which that reference appears.
3. Any governance documentation describing how such concerns were reviewed or escalated within the ICB or with NHS England.

Our Response

On this occasion it is not possible 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 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**