

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–111

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

2 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 23 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

1. Is the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board aware that over 300,000 pounds are being paid to fund the charity 'Great North Air Ambulance' by North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust?
2. Are they aware that they are only ICB where money is diverted to an air ambulance charity?
3. What does MERIT stand-for?
4. What is the identified need for this 'MERIT'?
5. How are ICBs given advice on how to distribute funds for 'MERIT'?

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. The ICB are not aware of the funding flow to Great North Air Ambulance from North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS). NEAS may be able to confirm this funding flow. For your information, freedom of information requests to NEAS can be made by emailing Freedom.Of.Information.Requests@neas.nhs.uk
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Merit stands for Medical Emergency Response Incident Team.

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

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4. They provide response for major, mass casualty and critical incidents.
5. The funding of the Merit Service is based on a historic costing model that meets the needs for the North East population.

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.

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**