

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-274

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By Email

15 October 2024

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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 3 October 2024 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, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

Your Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your CCG or from each of the CCGs your organisation represents. Please forward if appropriate.

My request relates to money lost to scams by CCGs. This relates to scams perpetrated by people who are not employed by the CCG and are not patients. I am asking every NHS trust and clinical commissioning group the same questions, in order to build up a national picture.

In each case, I understand that records may be incomplete, and if this is the case, I would like whatever figures are available, together with their dates, to give the most accurate view possible.

Here is what I am requesting:

1. The amount during each calendar year for each of the last five years your trust has lost to fraud and scams. This would include the year to date as one of those five years.
2. For each fraud or scam of more than £500 the nature of the fraud or scam, particularly:

- a. The date the money was lost.
- b. How much was lost.
- c. How the money was lost - the precise methodology the scammers used.
- d. What efforts were made to reclaim the lost funds.
- e. How successful those efforts were.
- f. Who the perpetrator was, if that is known.

Should there be a large number of frauds which qualify for question 2, to the point where costs for the request are likely to over-run, I would like the details for the five largest in terms of losses, please.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am interested in losses of money due to deception. I am not requesting details of losses of money or property due to theft, burglary etc.

I am given to understand I should receive a response within 20 working days.

For the purpose of cost, please consider each of these questions a separate request. The response should be made by email, please, this address.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, I would welcome any advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

Indeed, as an experienced handler of information requests, if you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, I would be grateful for any further pointers.

I hope it can be seen from my request that I am trying to be thorough in my job so please forgive the comprehensive nature of my questions. They are delivered roughly in order of importance. If any of them are proving particularly burdensome, to the detriment of the broader request, please let me know.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information you have requested.

This response is provided on behalf of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), which was established on 1 July 2022, together with the 8 predecessor CCGs across North East and North Cumbria, being: County Durham CCG, Newcastle Gateshead CCG, North Cumbria CCG, North Tyneside CCG, Northumberland CCG, South Tyneside CCG, Sunderland CCG and Tees Valley CCG.

The response derives from records held by AuditOne, Counter Fraud, the counter fraud provider to the ICB and former CCGs.

1. The work carried out has found that in the 5 calendar years since and including 2020 (with the year to date being the last calendar year), and based on the information we hold, neither the ICB nor the 8 predecessor CCGs have lost any money to fraud or scams which were perpetrated by anyone other than their employees or patients.
2. There have been no monies lost to frauds or scams.

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 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