

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–366

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

17 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 5 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

This is a follow up to FOI ICB 25-143. Under the original FOI, you were asked to supply budgets for local enhanced services and also supply service specifications. While you provided both, we have had to match the budgets to the service specifications. I have four questions. In all your answers, please retain the codes we have provided in the tables. [The tables are detailed in the spreadsheet attached.]

1. Please confirm whether we have matched the budget with the service specification correctly. These are instances where we believe we have matched the budget to the service specification. In many cases, we believe the budget covers a number of service specifications spread across the ICB, and we have marked these clearly. Please confirm in the highlighted column that this is all correct.
2. Please provide service specs for the following enhanced services. This is where you have provided a budget, but no obvious service specifications that match the budget. Please provide the service specifications for each of these budgets.
3. Budget needed for service specifications. This is where there are service specifications, but we cannot match these to a budget listed. Please add the budgets for 2025/26 in the highlighted column.

4. Confirm these LESs have been discontinued. This is where it seems as though a LES has been discontinued in the form listed. Please confirm in the highlighted column that this is correct.

Our Response

1. 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. However, we have estimated that to provide you with the required information, would exceed the cost limit of £450 for the NHS as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

S.12(1) of the FOIA provides that a public authority is not obliged to respond to a request for information if the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes.

NENC ICB cannot confirm the assumptions made in your request are correct due to the changing landscape of primary care commissioning, since the original request was submitted and responded to. To unpick the information provided in the FOI, then add 2025/26 information, would take more than 18 hours of financial management time. This is due to the following issues:

- Due to the request to compare to 2024/25, some of the budget lines for 2025/26 have changed, moved to different service lines, or have been incorporated into new baskets.
- Some areas operate LIS/LES schemes or 'basket of services' budgets, allocated on a per capita basis. These budgets may cover multiple services that are not individually costed or assigned separate budgets. Therefore, it is not always possible to match budgets directly to specific service specifications.
- In some cases, budgets are held as a total value for a group of services or schemes and cannot be easily broken down into individual service lines. Similarly, some service specifications do not have dedicated budget lines due to their inclusion in broader schemes or baskets.
- The list of discontinued LES schemes may not reflect actual discontinuations; some schemes may have been reclassified or incorporated into wider budgets due to budget movements between 2024/25 and 2025/26.

The ICB is conducting a comprehensive, two-year review of LIS/LES schemes. As this review is ongoing, both schemes and their associated values are subject to change. All budget figures are based on current ICB plans and may be updated during the year in response to local commissioning decisions.

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1.

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**