

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–039

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

30 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 28 April 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

1. Please could you tell me, within any local Liver Disease pathway, does the ICB currently have a dedicated strategy, policy or work programme relating to Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) or Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)? If so, please confirm whether this is (a) in place, (b) in development, or (c) not in place, and provide copies of any relevant documents.
2. Please could you tell me, is liver disease (including Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease or Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis) referenced as a priority condition in the ICB's integrated care strategy or joint forward plan? If so, please provide the relevant excerpts.
3. Please could you tell me, does the ICB have a locally agreed primary care pathway, protocol or clinical guideline for the assessment and management of Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) or Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)? Please confirm whether this is (a) in place, (b) in development, or (c) not in place, and if in place, please provide a copy of the most recent version.
4. Please could you tell me, do any Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) within the ICB offer liver fibrosis diagnostics? Please confirm which CDCs provide these services and specify the tests available, including transient elastography (FibroScan), the FIB-4 index, and the enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) blood test.

5. Please could you tell me, has the ICB carried out any assessment, review or analysis of specialist hepatology workforce capacity and demand within the last two years? Please confirm whether this is (a) completed, (b) in progress, or (c) not undertaken, and if completed, please provide copies of any reports, briefing papers, or presentations that set out the findings
6. Please could you tell me, has the ICB made any plans, business cases or budget provisions in anticipation of the forthcoming NICE guideline 'Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD)' (GID-NG10434)? Please confirm whether planning is (a) in place, (b) in development, or (c) not yet undertaken, and if in place, please provide copies of any related planning documents, meeting papers, or financial schedules.

Our Response

1. NENC ICB has no strategy in place relating to liver disease, specifically MASLD or MASH.
2. Liver disease (including MASLD or MASH) is not referenced as a priority condition in the ICB's integrated care strategy or joint forward plan.
3. 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, the guidance is publicly available on the Northern Treatment Advisory Group website: [Asymptomatic Liver Function Abnormalities](#).

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

4. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, we have provided the FOI contacts for those foundation trusts to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	nth-tr.foi@nhs.net
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

5. The ICB has not carried out any assessment, review or analysis of specialist hepatology workforce capacity and demand within the last two years.
6. NENC ICB has no formal plans in place, however, we do expect our commissioned providers to adhere to NICE guidance.

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**