



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB\470

NECS - John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: (0191) 301 1300
Fax: (0191) 374 4102
E-mail: Necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

31/07/2023

Applicant
By Email:

Dear Applicant,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 22/07/2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (ICB). This 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.

Request

- 1. Please tell me, from 2018 to the date of this email, how many patients you commissioned to have a tattoo removed.**
- 2. In each event, please tell me the total cost to your authority.**
- 3. Finally, please tell me what guidelines/criteria you apply in deciding whether or not to commission such a procedure (e.g., only for the removal of offensive tattoos on the face, gang tattoos, self-image problems). Please**

provide me with copies of any internal documents that spell out these guidelines.

NOTE: Given I'm asking for historical data, please include data that relates to commissioning activity carried out by now defunct CCGs that were incorporated into your ICB. I do not require a breakdown by year or former CCG area.

Response

1. *Nil.*
2. *Nil.*
3. ***As tattoo removal is not routinely commissioned (please see page 128 of the attached value-based commissioning policy). An IFR application would have to be made and the request would be assessed for clinical exceptionalism. IFR FAQs, which details how IFRs are assessed, are on page 15, and information on cosmetic procedures (which removal of tattoos falls under) is on page 16. The details for this can be found in the value-based commissioning policy of NENC ICB attached to this letter and the corresponding email:***



NENC ICB - VBC
Policy (12.3).pdf

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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

Ehren Smith

Information Governance Officer