

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-399

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By Email

5 February 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 17 January 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, 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 would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the below.

1. Do you provide funding or plan to in the next financial year, for Ambulatory ECG monitoring to GP surgeries in primary care within your ICB?
2. If so, who provides this service, is the service outsourced to an external company?
3. How was this procured?
4. Do you provide funding or plan to in the next financial year, for 12-lead ECG services to GP surgeries in primary care within your ICB?
5. If so, who provides this service, is the service outsourced to an external company?
6. How was this procured?
7. How many 12-lead ECGs tests are performed in primary care within your ICB a year?
8. How many Ambulatory ECG Holter tests are performed in primary care within your ICB a year?

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.

County Durham place

1. Yes, this is embedded into the local incentive scheme in County Durham. Practices were provided with equipment.
2. GP practices deliver this service.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Yes, this is also embedded into the local incentive scheme in County Durham. Practices were provided with equipment.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. Please refer to the responses to questions 1 and 4.
7. County Durham ICB place is currently awaiting the quarter 3 figures for ECG tests performed in this ICB place.
8. Please refer to the response to question 7.

Newcastle Gateshead place

1. There is no Newcastle Gateshead service in GP practices. As such, there is no dedicated funding – it is part of block contracts with Foundation Trusts (FTs) who provide this in the FT.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. This is procured as part of a standard block contract, in place for many years.
4. There is an Enhanced Service Contract in place with General Practices across Newcastle and Gateshead.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. This is an Enhanced Service Contract within General Practices
7. This information is not held by NENC ICB in Newcastle Gateshead place.
8. This service is not offered by NENC ICB in Newcastle Gateshead place.

North Cumbria place

1. 24-hour ECG service provided within certain Primary Care Networks (Workington, Copeland and Cockermouth) but is not provided across the whole of North Cumbria area.
2. Practices provide the service but organise interpretation via Broomwell Health (apart from Cockermouth where interpretation done in house).
3. This was procured via historic funding. Services have been running for number of years.
4. There are no new services planned.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. Please refer to the response to question 4.
7. Please refer to the response to question 4.
8. This information is not collected by NENC ICB in North Cumbria place.
9. Please refer to the response to question 8.

North Tyneside and Northumberland places

We do not provide funding or plan to in the next financial year, for Ambulatory ECG monitoring to GP surgeries in primary care within Northumberland and North Tyneside.

We do not provide funding or plan to in the next financial year, for 12-lead ECG services to GP surgeries in primary care within Northumberland and North Tyneside.

South Tyneside place

1. No, funding is not provided, nor planned to be provided.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. The funding is planned for 2025/26 but not in place at present.
5. All GP practices provide the service, dependent on sign-up.
6. This was procured via a Local Enhanced Service.
7. Zero.
8. Zero.

Sunderland place

1. No, funding is not provided, nor planned to be provided.
2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Yes, the funding is in place.
5. All GP practices provide the service.
6. This was procured via a Local Enhanced Service.
7. 88,868 for 2024
8. N/A

Tees Valley place

The following responses relate to Tees Valley, which includes Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland.

1. This service is commissioned from General Practice via a Local Improvement Scheme [LIS].
2. General Practices across Tees Valley provide this service.
3. This was procured via a Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), using an NHS standard contract.
4. This service is commissioned from General Practice via a LIS.
5. General Practices provide this service.
6. This was procured via a LIS using an NHS standard contract.
7. This information is not held by NENC ICB in Tees Valley.
8. Please refer to the response to question 7.

The ICB does hold some summary data on 12 lead ECG and Holt extend electrocard records tests and the results for 2024 are shown below:

Clinical Term	Count of Tests
12 lead ECG	87,480
Holt extend electrocard record	1388

Please note: These numbers do not include tests carried out on patients who are now deceased, or patients who have dissented from having their data shared. Also, the data won't cover all practices – there are practices within the ICB region who do not allow their data to be extracted for inclusion.

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