



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB FOI 474

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08 August 2023

By Email

Dear

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 26 July 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & 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. Please may you provide me with:

1. The number of new i) virtual wards and ii) virtual ward beds in the region since 1 January 2023 funded by NHSE.
2. The total number of i) virtual wards and ii) virtual ward beds on today's date, compared to 1 January 2023.
3. The number of new specialist mental health response vehicles introduced since 1 January 2023 - and if none, the reason behind the ICB's decision not to pursue this capital funding offer from Central Government.

Our Response

Question 1

5 New wards have opened since January 2023.

133 new beds since January 2023.

Question 2

In January 2023, there was 11 Virtual Wards and 335 beds.

As of 31 July 2023, there are 16 Virtual Wards and 468 beds

Question 3

As yet, no new specialist mental health response vehicles have been introduced since 1 January 2023 but ongoing work continues with our ambulance service providers to review and improve the current service commissioned.

Given the wide range of mental health priorities and finite revenue funding envelope, other areas have been the focus of any available investment, but that will continue to be subject to review.

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

Pamela Coxon

Pamela Coxon
Information Governance Officer