

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26–028

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

13 May 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 23 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

The questions below which I would like you to answer are designed to help me understand:

- how much money NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB spent on hospice services for babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity. in 2025/26, excluding the £26 million of funding that NHS England asked every ICB to distribute.
- how many babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity in the NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB footprint accessed hospice care during 2025/26
- how much money NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB plans to spend on hospice services for babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity during 2026/27, excluding any funding it will distribute from the first-year allocation of the £80 million three-year funding commitment for children's hospices that NHS England has asked ICBs to pass on.

Where your integrated care board came into existence on or after 1 April 2026 through the merger or reconfiguration of one or more predecessor integrated care boards (ICBs), please treat this request as applying to all relevant predecessor ICBs whose functions, responsibilities or records are now held by your organisation.

In these circumstances, responses should include all relevant spending, activity, and data relating to those predecessor ICBs for the periods covered by this request. Please provide an aggregated total for the current ICB footprint, alongside a clearly labelled breakdown by each predecessor ICB.

In order to help you meet my request, I provide definitions to the terms I use in my questions below:

Life-threatening conditions: Conditions for which disease-modifying or life-prolonging treatment may be available but may fail, or where intensive therapies and interventions are required to sustain or prolong life. These conditions carry a significant risk of premature death even if treatment is pursued.

Life-shortening conditions: Conditions where death in childhood or early adulthood is likely due to the progressive nature of the condition or the absence of effective disease-modifying treatment.

Severe medical complexity: Children and young people with severe medical complexity and vulnerability, including multi-system involvement, profound neurological impairment, technology dependence, or extreme frailty, where there is a significant risk of life-threatening events.

Children and young people: Babies, children and young people aged 0-25.

My questions:

1. Please set out how much money your integrated care board and/or any predecessor integrated care boards it now represents spent on hospice care for babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity between 6 April 2025 and 5 April 2026. Please provide a total, in addition to a breakdown of funding per children's hospice organisation.
2. Please set out the arrangement through which this money was paid in 2025/26 – was this by block contract, standard contract, service level agreement, grant arrangement, spot purchases or other by means.
3. Please set out how many babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity who live in your integrated care board footprint and/or the footprint of any predecessor integrated care boards it now represents accessed hospice care between 6 April 2025 and 5 April 2026.
4. Please set out how many babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity who live in your integrated care board footprint could benefit from children's hospice care.
5. Please set out how much money your integrated care board plans to spend on hospice care for babies, children and young people with life-threatening conditions, life-shortening conditions or with severe medical complexity between 6 April 2026 and 5 April 2027, excluding any funding it will distribute from the first-year allocation of the £80 million three-year funding commitment for children's hospices that NHS England has asked ICBs to pass on.
6. Please set out the arrangement through which this money will be paid in 2026/27 – by block contract, standard contract, service level agreement, grant arrangement, spot purchases or other by means.

Our Response

1. On this occasion it is not possible 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

Our contracts with hospices are not split between adults and children, other than the specific children's hospice grant funding received from NHS England, and we do not hold information on the amounts relating to children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.

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.
5. Please refer to the response to question 1.
6. 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, Wycliff 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**