

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–291

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

27 October 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 on 21 October 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, 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

I'm writing to request clarification and verification of figures recently [reported in the Times & Star](#) regarding deficit support funding in our region, and to understand the implications for healthcare provision in North and West Cumbria.

The article states that North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Trust (NCIC) received £26.01 million from a £49.95 million one-off payment issued by the North East and North Cumbria ICB, reducing its planned deficit from £60.7 million to £34.7 million.

Given the scale of this funding and the potential impact on local services, I would appreciate your help in confirming the following:

1. Are the figures reported accurate?
2. How was the remaining £23.94 million allocated across the ICS?
3. Did any of this funding support primary care or community services in Cumbria?
4. What financial planning is in place for 2025/26, particularly in light of the 10-Year Plan requirement for no deficits?
5. What is the strategy for managing NCIC's remaining £34.7 million deficit if deficits are no longer permitted or supported?

This shift in policy has serious implications for the sustainability of healthcare in our area. If secondary care providers like NCIC are no longer eligible for bailout funding, it risks destabilising services that are already under pressure — with knock-on effects for primary care, community provision, and patient outcomes across North and West Cumbria.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. Yes, the figures were accurate at the time they were reported
2. This was allocated to other NHS Foundation Trusts within the ICS which also had planned financial deficits. The £49.95m deficit support funding was intended to help offset planned deficits and was allocated across the ICS in proportion to individual organisations planned deficits.
3. The funding was purely to offset planned deficits and manage resulting cash pressures, with an equal improvement in the planned deficit position of NCIC required. It was not funding that could be used to invest in services.
4. Financial planning guidance for 2025/26 can be found on the NHS England website with updates provided in the 2025/26 financial plan papers presented to North East and North Cumbria ICB Board (available within ICB board papers on the ICB website). The implications of the 10-year plan will be considered as part of future planning and form part of future publications to the Board as part of ICS planning.

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 link to the ICB meetings on our website: [ICB Board meetings| North East and North Cumbria NHS](#)

5. Management of the overall ICS financial position forms part of ongoing work on the medium-term financial plan for the ICS. This will form part of future publications to the Board.

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**