

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–491

North East and North Cumbria ICB  
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By Email

27 February 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 25 February 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**

I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request regarding the commissioning and funding of placements for adults with severe neurological injury and/or long-term airway or ventilatory dependency following discharge from acute hospital settings.

For the purposes of this request, please include adults (aged 18+) who have been discharged from acute NHS hospital settings (including ICU, neurology, neurosurgery, stroke, trauma, spinal injury or respiratory wards) and who require high levels of ongoing care due to:

- Traumatic brain injury
- Stroke (ischaemic or haemorrhagic)
- Hypoxic/anoxic brain injury
- Brain tumour or post-neurosurgical complications
- High cervical spinal cord injury
- Severe acquired neurological disability
- Advanced neurodegenerative disorders (e.g., Motor Neurone Disease, advanced MS, advanced Parkinson's disease)
- Other serious neurological or respiratory conditions resulting in long-term functional impairment

Including individuals discharged with:

- A tracheostomy in situ
- Long-term invasive ventilation
- Long-term non-invasive ventilation
- Complex airway management needs

Please provide data for the most recent three financial years available.

1. Commissioned Placements and Care Packages

For each financial year, please provide:

- a. The total number of adults meeting the above criteria for whom the ICB has commissioned or funded a placement or care package following discharge from acute hospital.
- b. A breakdown of placement type:
  - Specialist neurorehabilitation unit (Level 1 or 2)
  - Specialist ABI/neuro-disability care home
  - Specialist ventilator-dependent unit
  - Non-specialist nursing or residential care home
  - Home with a domiciliary or complex care package
  - Other (please specify)

2. Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

- a. Of the above cohort, how many were funded under NHS Continuing Healthcare?
- b. How many required 24-hour care provision?
- c. How many required ventilator-capable or tracheostomy-capable placements?

3. Commissioning and Classification

- a. Does the ICB maintain a defined list of “specialist ABI”, “specialist neuro-disability”, or ventilator-capable care homes?
- b. If so, please provide the number of such placements commissioned in each financial year.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost threshold under the Freedom of Information Act, I would be grateful for guidance on how the scope may be refined.

If possible, please provide the data in Excel format.

**Our Response**

1. Commissioned Placements and Care Packages

- a. 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.

NENC ICB does not record the criteria noted in your request. Local Foundation Trusts may hold information about patient discharge and their conditions as they discharge patients. CHC referrals are made from a community setting not hospital.

- b. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

2. Continuing Healthcare (CHC)

- a. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
- b. Please refer to the response to question 1a.
- c. Please refer to the response to question 1a.

### 3. Commissioning and Classification

- a. 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 that NENC ICB does not maintain a defined list of “specialist ABI”, “specialist neuro-disability”, or ventilator-capable care homes.

You may wish to refer to each NENC ICB region local authority website for details of their care placements and the categories of care they are registered to deliver. In addition, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) holds this information.

- b. Please refer to the response to question 3a.

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 the FOI contacts for NENC ICB region foundation trusts to make your request. We have also provided links to CHC and the national framework.

CQC published data: [CHC and NHS-Funded Nursing Care](#)

CQC 'find service': [Search Results – Care Quality Commission](#)

CHC National Framework: [National Framework for NHS CHC and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#)

<b>NENC Acute Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email/Online portal</b>
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	<a href="mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net">cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net</a>
Gateshead Health NHS FT	<a href="mailto:ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net">ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net</a>
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk">foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk</a>
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	<a href="mailto:nth-tr.foi@nhs.net">nth-tr.foi@nhs.net</a>
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	<a href="mailto:foi@northumbria.nhs.uk">foi@northumbria.nhs.uk</a>
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	<a href="mailto:stees.foi.admin@nhs.net">stees.foi.admin@nhs.net</a>
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	<a href="mailto:stsft@infreemation.co.uk">stsft@infreemation.co.uk</a>
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	<a href="https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/">https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/</a>

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](http://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](http://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**