

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-080

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

5 June 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 20 May 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 making an initial enquiry regarding Adult Hearing Service provision within the Tees Valley and Darlington area, specifically in relation to Any Qualified Provider (AQP) pathways and community-based audiology services.

We would be grateful if you could advise whether there is an existing commissioning or procurement lead responsible for adult hearing services within the Darlington/Tees locality, or whether there are any published engagement routes for prospective providers.

Our Response

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

The ICB have commenced a comprehensive service review of audiology, with consideration for a future procurement opportunity that will include market engagement.

Whilst the service review is ongoing, the ICB will be awarding contracts for audiology to our existing providers via Direct Award Process C of The Healthcare Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations (PSR) which will expire in March 2027.

The ICB continues to move forward with the full-service review and all opportunities to engage with the market on the future service model and future tender opportunities will be advertised on the governments advertising platform Central Digital Platform (Find a Tender Service) [Find a Tender](#) and the ICB's e-tendering platform Atamis [Welcome](#).

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**