NHS
North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\ FOI ICB 26–280

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

10 September 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 3 September 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB.

Nature of the information requested
This request is for aggregated numerical information only and does not require disclosure of individual case files or personal data.

Where the requested information is recorded within an existing complaint, safeguarding, incident, professional standards or other reporting/classification system, please use the existing categories, classifications and reporting data held by the ICB.

Scope of request
Please provide the following information for NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB, separately for each calendar year: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 to the date of the response.

Please provide the number of complaints/cases recorded or classified as involving a healthcare professional as the alleged subject and a female patient as the affected person, where the recorded complaint/case concerns any of the following:

1. allegations of sexual misconduct or sexual violence;
2. intimate examinations or procedures allegedly carried out without informed consent.

For the complaints/cases falling within categories 1 and 2 above, please additionally provide, where this information is recorded in the ICB's existing systems or classifications, the number involving female patients who:

- were recorded as foreign nationals;
- were recorded as having a first language other than English;
- were recorded as requiring an interpreter; and/or
- were involved in an allegation concerning failure to provide an interpreter.

Where the ICB uses different terminology or classification categories for any of the above, please provide the closest equivalent category or classification held.

Source of complaints/referrals

For the relevant complaints/cases above, please provide the number recorded as:

- received directly from the affected patient;
- referred by a GP practice;
- referred by another healthcare provider;
- referred to or handled by the ICB Safeguarding Team;
- referred by the Care Quality Commission (CQC);
- referred by a local authority Adult Safeguarding Team;
- referred by the police.

If the same complaint/case is recorded under more than one source/referral category, please indicate this where the existing data permits.

Complaint handling and outcomes

Please provide, for the relevant complaints/cases:

- number accepted for investigation;
- number upheld;
- number not upheld;
- number partially upheld;
- number reviewed by the Professional Standards Team as part of Managing Performers Concerns, together with the recorded outcome where available;
- number referred or escalated to the General Medical Council (GMC);
- number referred or escalated to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC);
- number referred or escalated to the Care Quality Commission (CQC);
- number referred or escalated to the police.

If the requested information is not held in exactly the format set out above, please provide the closest equivalent aggregated information already held, together with the relevant category, classification, reporting field or terminology used by the ICB.

Where a particular category is not recorded or the information is not held, please confirm this explicitly for that category.

Reasonable adjustments

Under the Equality Act 2010, I request that the response be provided in a clear, well-structured and organised manner, to facilitate my understanding of the information, as English is not my first language and I experience difficulties accessing information in English.

Please avoid any ambiguity or any change in the scope of my request, as this would create an additional barrier to my access to information and may require unnecessary further correspondence in a language that is not my native language.

Our Response

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

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB has identified complaints/cases during the 2025/26 period which aligns with the subject matter described in the request. However, the ICB does not routinely record, classify, or report complaints using the specific categories requested (for example, allegations of sexual misconduct, sexual violence, intimate examinations without consent, or professional regulatory outcomes).

The ICB therefore does not hold the requested information in a recorded or reportable format and is unable to provide the detailed breakdown requested.

Matters relating to alleged professional misconduct by individual healthcare professionals are generally managed directly by the healthcare provider or GP practice concerned and, where appropriate, through relevant professional regulatory bodies such as the General Medical Council (GMC) or Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Such matters are not routinely recorded or reported within ICB complaints systems in the manner requested.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, a list of practices is available on the NHS Digital website: GP and GP practice related data – NHS England Digital The GP Practices full file name is **epraccur** and for your reference, NENC ICB's Organisation Data Service (ODS) code is **QMH**.

Organisation	FOI email
General Medical Council (GMC)	informationaccess@gmc-uk.org
Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)	foi&dparequest@nmc-uk.org

Whilst the ICB has identified complaints received during 2025/26 potentially relevant to the request, the detailed information sought is not held within the ICB's existing complaint recording, classification, safeguarding, incident management, or reporting systems. The ICB does not maintain aggregated records of complaints according to the categories specified in the request, nor does it routinely collect or report information relating to professional regulatory referrals, or police involvement for such complaints.

Year	Number of cases identified
2021	Information not held
2022	Information not held
2023	Information not held
2024	Information not held
2025	Values fewer than 5 have been suppressed to reduce the risk of identifying individuals.
2026	Zero cases to date

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