

Our Reference     North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24-461

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By Email

12 March 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 25 February 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, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

**Your Request**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) services within North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, specifically:

1. Who is responsible for managing Acquired Brain Injury services/Complex Care within your ICB? Please provide the job title/role of the officer(s) responsible, their name, and appropriate contact details?
2. Who is responsible for undertaking Acquired Brain Injury reviews/Complex Care reviews for your ICB? Please provide the job title/role of the officer(s) responsible, their name, and appropriate contact details. If this function is outsourced, please confirm the name of the subcontractor(s).
3. Who is responsible for determining the eligibility of Acquired Brain Injury /Complex Care patients for continuing healthcare services for your ICB? Please provide the job title/role of the officer(s) responsible, their name, and appropriate contact details. If this function is outsourced, please confirm the name of the subcontractor(s).

4. Please confirm the number of patients who have an Acquired Brain Injury and are funded through a rehabilitation pathway (Level 2 or 3).
5. Please confirm the number of Acquired Brain Injury patients currently in rehabilitation pathway who require a continuing healthcare assessment (Level 2 or 3)

## **Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

1. NENC ICB's Director of Nursing, Kate O'Brien holds responsibility for the Neuro Rehabilitation portfolio across the NENC ICB.
2. Where an individual is deemed to have rehabilitation potential it is agreed that funding will be authorised to facilitate the individual's needs. The above director would authorise this. The care delivery would be managed and overseen by the appropriate Continuing Health Care team. Once an individual has achieved what is deemed their rehabilitation potential a consideration for the appropriate agency to manage and fund care (where required) would be made. This consideration would be made between Local Authority and Continuing Health Care teams. Where appropriate, section 117 may also be considered the appropriate legal framework. Dependent on the above factors determines who the appropriate responsible organisation and team are to manage and ongoing support for the individual.
3. Where an individual is identified as CHC, responsibility would be with the CHC team within that area.

Referrals are via the electronic referral system. GP's, district nurses, social care and other professionals are able to submit a referral. Once referral has been submitted the CHC framework guidance is followed to complete the process.

4. NENC ICB does not hold data to this level, so is unable to provide the information you have requested. In the last month there has been one referral for acquired brain injury. Outcome was s.117 eligible.
5. NENC ICB's clinical recorded system does not provide this data as an individual only becomes responsible CHC or complex care once full rehabilitation potential has been achieved.

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 Senior 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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

[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 sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**