

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-412

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

21 February 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 27 January 2024 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 have a freedom of information request. which I hope you'll be able to help me with, please see my query below

1. Does the ICB/ ICS provide Community Dermatology Services? If yes, how many for your ICS?
2. Please specify the name of the Community Service Providers and the address of the clinics.
3. Are these clinics led by primary or secondary care?
4. Can you please provide the number of patients treated by each provider within the last 12 months? With their average wait time
5. Does the Community Dermatology Service provide maintenance treatment for patients with any of the following drug types?
 - High-cost drugs – that require blueteq approval
 - Monoclonal antibody drugs (e.g. Adalimumab, Dupilumab, Secukinumab, Ustekinumab)
 - JAK inhibitors (e.g. Abrocitinib, Baricitinib)

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6. Does the Community Dermatology Service provide initiation of treatment for patients with any of the following drug types?
- High-cost drugs – that require blueteq approval
 - Monoclonal antibody drugs (e.g. Adalimumab, Dupilumab, Secukinumab, Ustekinumab)
 - JAK inhibitors (e.g. Abrocitinib, Baricitinib)

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.

However, we have determined that some information is held by the acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

Where this is noted, and 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 email addresses for those acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Gateshead Health NHS FT	ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT	foi@nth.nhs.uk
Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT	foi@northumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	foi@stees.nhs.uk
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft.freedomofinformation@nhs.net
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	nuth.freedom.information@nhs.net

County Durham place

1. Community Dermatology Service are provided within County Durham ICB place.
2. The providers and further details of services provided are as follows:

County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) provides community dermatology services across County Durham and Darlington. According to the service specification, the below locations are used to deliver the service, however for more information please contact the provider directly:

Dermatology services are currently delivered in Darlington, Derwentside, Dales and Easington.

The Derwentside service currently delivers 4 satellite clinics located in Leadgate, Craghead, Medomsley and Burnhope. Minor surgery is combined with dermatology and is delivered by a GPwSI (GP with a specialist interest) and a dermatology specialist nurse. An associate specialist from UHND (University Hospital of North Durham) also delivers a clinic on alternate weeks.

The Darlington Service is based in Dr Piper House and is delivered by a team of nurses and GPwSI.

Bishop Auckland and Crook service is delivered by a GPwSI.

Easington service, based in Seaham will provide two minor surgery sessions per week by GPwSI and one Dermatology session per week by GPwSI and one session per week associate specialist from University Hospital North Durham. There will also be nurse led clinics provide by a dermatology specialist nurse.

The service at Dr Piper House Walk in Centre, Darlington is delivered by a Specialist Skin Cancer Surgeon supported by registered qualified nursing team and dedicated admin support.

The service at The Eden Centre, Coundon is delivered by a Specialist Skin Cancer Surgeon supported by registered qualified nursing team and dedicated admin support.

The service at Barnard Castle Surgery is delivered by a Specialist Skin Cancer Surgeon supported by registered qualified nursing team and dedicated admin support.

The service at Ferryhill Surgery is delivered by a GPwSI supported by registered qualified nursing/health care team and dedicated admin support.

The provider Cestria Health Centre is located at Whitehill Way, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 3DJ.

3. The service provides a specialist community-based dermatology and minor skin surgery service offering assessment, diagnosis, treatment and management of patients with dermatological conditions requiring more specialist knowledge, skills and competence than is usually available in general practice.

The service is provided by a small team of healthcare professionals comprising of Community Dermatologists (GPwSI's) and Specialist Nurses supported by dedicated administrative and support staff.

The service also offers education, training and support on dermatology issues to GPs and other healthcare professionals working in the primary care setting.

The minor surgery service offers a variety of community-based clinic locations to remove a number of complex skin lesions. These procedures are classed as more difficult than the usual minor operation procedures carried out by all GPs in primary care. Some may be complex due to the nature of the lesion, others because of the location of the lesion. These require treatment from specialist practitioners to ensure positive outcomes for patients.

This service has been well established for several years within the community and ensures referrals to secondary care are kept to a minimum, with only necessary referrals being sent to secondary care, such as complex skin cancer conditions. Services are provided by either Skin Cancer Specialist Surgeons or General Practitioners with Special Interest (GPwSI) and specialist nursing teams.

Lesions which are removed are sent for histological examination, and the referring GP is informed of the outcome. Any patients requiring further treatment are referred on to the relevant specialist within secondary care, but these are minimal.

These services have provided access to appointments in primary care for all patients who are referred by their General Practitioner for consultation, treatment and follow-up, if necessary, who would otherwise have to be referred into secondary care.

4. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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. Please redirect your request to CDDFT, email noted above.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. Please refer to the response to question 4.

Newcastle Gateshead, North Tyneside and Northumberland places

There are no Dermatology Services captured in either the Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT or Gateshead Health NHS FT contracts. The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT provide the majority of Dermatology services in the north of the NENC region.

North Cumbria place

1. Community Dermatology Services are provided within North Cumbria ICB place.
2. GPwSI service is provided by Carlisle Healthcare in 2 locations:

Carlisle Healthcare Hub, Locke Road, Carlisle, CA1 3UB
Cockermouth Community Hospital, Isel Road, Cockermouth, CA13 9HT

3. Clinics are led by a GP with special interest in dermatology.
4. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. Please refer to the response to question 4.

South Tyneside and Sunderland places

1. NENC ICB provides Community Dermatology Services within Sunderland and South Tyneside ICB places.
2. The service provider is South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust at Bunny Hill Primary Care Centre, 1st floor, Hylton Lane, Sunderland, SR5 4BW.
3. Clinics are led by primary care by a GP with special interest.
4. We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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.
5. Please refer to the response to question 4.
6. Please refer to the response to question 4.

Tees Valley place

1. Community Dermatology Service are provided within Tees Valley ICB place.
2. The providers are listed below and the addresses can be found on the internet.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Community Skin Service
Headland Medical Centre and ELM Alliance – Community Minor Skin Service

3. Community Skin Services are led by Secondary Care and Minor Skin Services are led by Primary Care.

4. Patients treated, treatment times and average wait are noted below:

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: 2627 new patients, average wait 34 days

Headland Medical Centre: 239 patients, no wait

ELM Alliance: 257 patients, no wait

5. The service specification does not specify drugs, it states the acceptance criteria for the service based on condition. As such, we can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB on this occasion is not able 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.

6. Please refer to the response to question 5.

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

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer