

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–283

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

29 October 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 on 16 October 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, 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 would like to make a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I wish to understand the testing and implementation of the outcome-based payment approach for NHS Talking Therapies (formerly known as Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)) undertaken in your ICB area. To provide context, in the financial years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019, NHS England implemented a policy change relating to the reimbursement of treatment costs in NHS Talking Therapies. This relates to Local Pricing Rule 8 of the 2017/19 National Tariff, which required the adoption of an outcomes-based payment approach using the 10 national outcome measures collected in the IAPT dataset. The NHS England Strategic Finance team stated the 10 national outcome measures, and nominal weightings of each measure in the outcome element of the outcomes-based payment approach, include:

- Clinical outcomes – 50%
- Patient satisfaction – 11.25%
- Reducing disability and improved wellbeing – 10%
- Employment outcomes – 10%
- Patient choice – 3.75%
- Access for BAME groups – 3%
- Access for over 65s – 3%

- Access for self-referrals – 3%.
- Access and waiting times standard – 3%.
- Access for specific anxieties – 3%.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS Talking Therapies service providers were supposed to shadow-test an outcomes-based payment approach from April 2017, with full implementation planned for April 2018.

Given the time period this information relates to, I refer to the following CCGs that transitioned into NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB:

- NHS North Tyneside CCG
- NHS Northumberland CCG
- NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG (formed by merger in 2015)
- NHS North Cumbria CCG
- NHS Sunderland CCG
- NHS South Tyneside CCG
- NHS County Durham CCG (formed by merger in 2020)
- NHS Tees Valley CCG (formed by merger in 2020)

Please could you provide the following information:

1. The date (year and month) each Clinical Commissioning Group region shadow tested an outcomes-based payment approach for NHS Talking Therapies treatment in the date range of 2008 to the latest available data.
2. The date (year and month) each Clinical Commissioning Group region fully implemented an outcomes-based payment approach for NHS Talking Therapies treatment in the date range of 2008 to the latest available data.
3. If all NHS Talking Therapies service providers within a Clinical Commissioning Group region adopted the change in reimbursement scheme at the same time. If not, which providers were selected for shadow testing, and when did all providers adopt the change.
4. If possible, the criteria/targets and associated weightings of the 10 outcome measures for each Clinical Commissioning Group region, once the outcomes-based payment approach was implemented from its introduction and each subsequent financial year up to the latest available data.

If possible, could you provide the information/data in a CSV/XLSX file in the following column format:

- Clinical Commissioning Group organisation/entity ID code.
- Clinical Commissioning Group organisation/entity name.
- The year when shadow testing of the new payment approach began.
- The month when shadow testing of the new payment approach began.
- The year when shadow testing of the new payment approach ended.
- The month when shadow testing of the new payment approach ended.
- An indicator of whether all service providers in the region participated in the shadow testing.
- NHS Talking Therapies service provider organisation/entity ID codes of providers not included in shadow testing (If not all).
- NHS Talking Therapies service provider organisation/entity ID codes of providers included in shadow testing (If not all).
- The year when the new payment approach was fully implemented.
- The month when the new payment approach was fully implemented.

- The criteria/targets and associated weightings of the 10 outcome measures for the Clinical Commissioning Group region (per financial year).

If you require any further information, please feel free to get in touch.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does not hold any of the information requested.

There is no information held on file to suggest that the outcome-based payment approach was implemented by any of the CCGs listed, in relation to Talking Therapies (formerly known as IAPT).

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**