

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 26-127

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

17 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 12 June 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 note from the response that the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board states that it does not hold the information I requested; that is, it does not have policies or processes for handling, investigating, or responding to complaints made to it about or involving medical examiners.

From the further information kindly included in the response, it would appear that the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board may disagree with the guidance provided by the National Medical Examiner published by NHS England that a complaint about a medical examiner may be made to the integrated care board that commissions services from the NHS trust or NHS foundation trust that employs medical examiners, although such a position of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board is not clearly stated in the response.

My reason for suspecting that the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board may disagree with relevant guidance provided by the National Medical Examiner is that in the case that a complainant does not consent to the details of the complaint being sent to the NHS foundation trust that employs the medical examiner to whom the complaint relates, the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board would have to have policies and processes in place to for it handle such a complaint and to investigate and respond to such a complaint itself.

For reasons of clarity, would the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board please state whether it agrees with the guidance from the National Medical Examiner published by NHS England that (1) complaints about medical examiners or medical examiner officers employed by NHS trusts or NHS foundation trusts may be made to the integrated care board that commissions services from the relevant NHS trust or NHS foundation trust and (2) the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board must inform NHS England's regional medical examiner of the complaint and consult that person before finalizing the response.

Our Response

The ICB does not consider this to be a request for recorded information under the Freedom of Information Act. If you wish to request the ICB's opinion or view on this matter, please email nencicb-sun.reception@nhs.net.

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**