

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–324

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

By Email

27 November 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 12 November 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 am writing to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In May 2023, the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry* published the UK Multidisciplinary Consensus Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension (SIH) (Cheema et al., 2023), endorsed by the Association of British Neurologists and the Royal College of Physicians. These guidelines include audit and quality standards intended to standardise care for SIH patients across the NHS.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to neurology services commissioned by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

1. Adoption and Oversight of Guidelines
 - a. Has the ICB taken steps to ensure that commissioned neurology providers are aware of and follow the 2023 SIH consensus guideline?
 - b. Does the ICB hold any information on compliance or monitoring of adherence to this guideline by its providers?

2. Commissioned Neurology Services

- a. Please provide a list of all NHS provider trusts or organisations within your ICB footprint that deliver adult neurology services, including specialist neuroscience centres if applicable.
- b. If possible, please confirm whether each of these providers offers:
 - MRI brain with contrast and spine MRI for suspected SIH.
 - Non-targeted epidural blood patches (EBP).
 - Access/referral to specialist services for myelography, targeted patching, surgery, or endovascular treatment.

3. Information held by Providers

If the ICB does not hold some of the requested information, please confirm which provider(s) hold this information.

Please provide the information electronically. If any of the requested information is not held, kindly confirm this.

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. 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. However, we have determined that the information is held by the North East and North Cumbria Provider Collaborative.

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 contact for the provider collaborative – nenc.providercomms@nhs.net – to make your request. For your reference, their website is [NENC Provider Collaborative](#)

2. The following organisations deliver adult neurology services:

The specification attached covers the Neurology service in North Durham, which is provided by 2 visiting consultants employed by the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) hold the prime contract for the provision of this service and as such are responsible for the management of the waiting lists and appointment process. However, the neurology service in South Durham is provided by consultants employed by South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT), therefore STHFT hold the prime contract for the provision of this service and as such are responsible for the management of the waiting lists and appointment process.

Neurology services are provided by the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT in the North of the region and North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT in North Cumbria.

City Hospitals Sunderland, part of South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT provides neurology services to the South Tyneside and Sunderland area and South Tees Hospitals NHS FT provide a neurology service in the Tees Valley.

3. NENC ICB made reference to acute trust providers in the answer to question 2. In order to assist you, we have listed the FOI addresses for those acute trust providers in the table below.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email/Online portal
County Durham and Darlington NHS FT	cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS FT	foirequest@cumbria.nhs.uk
South Tees Hospitals NHS FT	stees.foi.admin@nhs.net
South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	stsft@infreemation.co.uk
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT	https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/help/foi/

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**