

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–194

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

12 September 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 14 August 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 request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in relation to the NICE guideline NG73 on the diagnosis and management of endometriosis (published September 2017):

1. Referral Pathways and Initial Management

NICE NG73 recommends that primary care clinicians should consider endometriosis in women presenting with certain symptoms and outlines when referral should be made to a gynaecology service (Recommendations 1.1.1–1.1.3).

- a. Does NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB provide specific guidance or care pathways to primary care providers regarding when to refer patients for suspected endometriosis?
- b. Do you monitor adherence to these referral pathways by primary care providers across your footprint? If so, please share any evaluation reports from the past 2 years.

2. Access to Specialist Endometriosis Services

NG73 recommends referral to a specialist endometriosis service in cases of deep endometriosis or where initial treatment has been unsuccessful (Recommendation 1.4.1).

- a. Which specialist endometriosis centres or services are commissioned by NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB for patients requiring advanced care?

- b. What is the current average and longest recorded waiting time for a referral from primary care to a specialist endometriosis service within NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB?
3. Multidisciplinary Care and Support
NICE recommends that specialist endometriosis services include a multidisciplinary team (MDT) of gynaecologists, surgeons, pain management specialists, fertility experts, and others as appropriate (Recommendation 1.4.2).
- a. Do the specialist services commissioned by NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB include access to a full MDT as specified in the NICE guidance?
- b. How many patients have been referred to an MDT for endometriosis-related care in the past 12 months?
4. Surgical Expertise
The guideline states that excision or ablation of endometriotic lesions should be performed only by practitioners with appropriate training and experience (Recommendation 1.5.3).
- a. Does NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB maintain oversight or assurance mechanisms to ensure endometriosis surgery is carried out by appropriately qualified professionals?
- b. How many patients underwent laparoscopic surgery for endometriosis in the last 12 months within NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB area?
5. Awareness and Education
NICE emphasises the importance of raising awareness of endometriosis among healthcare professionals (Recommendation 1.1.4).
- a. Has NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB conducted or funded any training or awareness campaigns on endometriosis for primary or secondary care professionals since 2020?
- b. If so, please provide details.
6. Data Collection and Audit
- a. Does NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB collect any data or conduct audits specifically relating to endometriosis diagnosis, treatment, or outcomes?
- b. If so, please provide the most recent audit results or performance data available.

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 acute hospital NHS foundation trusts (FTs) within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 foundation trusts 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

2. Please refer to the response to question 1.
3. Please refer to the response to question 1.
4. Please refer to the response to question 1.
5. Please find awareness and education information for each ICB place:

County Durham: NENC ICB in County Durham has conducted nothing specific, for the nursing workforce Durham advertise the PCWHS webinars and as such this year: [PCWHS Webinar: Challenges in the diagnosis and treatment of fibroids and endometriosis | Primary Care Women's Health Society](#)

Newcastle Gateshead: We conducted an overview of Endometriosis training session for Primary Care staff in Newcastle on November 12, 2024, during protected learning time. Additionally, we held a session on the Non contraceptive uses of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for Primary Care staff on May 13, 2025, also during protected learning time.

North Cumbria: There have been no education sessions for primary care colleagues specifically on endometriosis in North Cumbria since the ICB's inception in July 2022.

North Tyneside and Northumberland: We have delivered women's health/sexual health session but nothing specific on endometriosis in Northumberland and North Tyneside.

South Tyneside: 21 July 2023, session provided covering recognition of symptoms, treatments available and updated NICE guidelines where applicable. This was for nurses only.

Sunderland: sessions were provided:

- 15 November 2022 and 6 October 2023: training session for GPs and Advanced Nurse Practitioners which included recognition of symptoms, treatments available and updated NICE guidelines where applicable.
- 19 July 2023: a session covering the above topic was also provided on this date but was for nurses only.
- 19 March 2025: session for GPs and Advanced Nurse Practitioners regarding ultrasonography of endometriosis, what to look out for and diagnosis.

Tees Valley: The primary care team have organised PLT sessions for GPs on women's health and menopause One session was held on 10 September 2025 and the Hormone Replacement Therapy was presented at the meeting. Another session was held on 1 October 2025, and Menopause Tees Valley was presented at the meeting.

6. On this occasion it is not possible 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.

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**