

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25-055

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

11 June 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 May 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

1. Has the ICS made its local Discharge to Assess Policy and Protocol available to the public and if so, in what format please? (Please supply the link, if the answer is yes, online).
2. If not, or if the above-mentioned publicly available local Discharge to Assess Policy and Protocol does not deal with the legal responsibility for the funding of the first package of care after hospital discharge (regardless of whether it has been commissioned through NHS or LA processes), please describe how the local arrangements address the difference between the funding arrangements (NHS, LA, s75 partnership, s256 grants) for the following types of discharge arrangement:

Formal rehabilitation or other specific NHS services
Interim or step-down services intended for the completion of recuperation after patients have been deemed medically optimised or no longer meeting the criteria to reside
Intermediate Care Services
Reablement Services
Temporary Respite on account of lack of commissioned capacity issues
Long Term Social Services from hospital.

We are aware of the national dataset analysis of CHC application outcomes here
<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Fstatistics%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fsites%2F2%2F2025%2F02%2FCHC-and-FNC->

www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk 

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25_NT63r.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cnencicb.foi%40nhs.net%7Ca1a3c6be34854c33116108dd9451e40e%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638829801655068300%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoitWFPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hYmv3iLN%2BmLBQbF9Ef2r1dtyKUzmzX71E3yR9xrKvffM%3D&reserved=0.

The report defines a referral as the earliest notification (to the ICB or organisation acting on behalf of the ICB) that full consideration for NHS CHC is required (e.g. a positive checklist or other notification, or Fast Track paperwork.).

The total number of referrals discounted before assessment is one of the metrics required. We therefore assume that the ICB must record the number of apparently positive Checklists received from the hospital discharge system and the community.

3. If so, please link us to that data and provide the means to compare it with figures from earlier reference periods.

Our Response

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.

1. There is no single ICB Discharge to Assess Policy and Protocol. NENC ICB follows national guidelines for discharge to assess.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hospital-discharge-and-community-support-guidance/hospital-discharge-and-community-support-guidance>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/partners-care-and-health/better-care-fund-support-programme-2025-26>

2. There are individual processes in each ICB area.

Funding is decided on an individual basis taking into consideration the ICBs arrangements with the person's local authority. Local Authorities in the NENC region may hold additional information and their FOI email addresses are noted below for your reference.

NENC Local Authorities	Email
Cumbria County Council	information.governance@cumbria.gov.uk
Darlington Borough Council	freedomofinformation@darlington.gov.uk
Durham County Council	foi@durham.gov.uk
Gateshead Council	informationrights@gateshead.gov.uk
Hartlepool Borough Council	freedomofinformation@hartlepool.gov.uk
Middlesbrough Borough Council	foi@middlesbrough.gov.uk
Newcastle City Council	freedomofinformation@newcastle.gov.uk
North Tyneside Council	foiofficer@northtyneside.gov.uk
Northumberland County Council	foi@northumberland.gov.uk

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	informationgovernance@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk
South Tyneside Council	foi@southtyneside.gov.uk
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	foiandcomplaints@stockton.gov.uk
Sunderland City Council	freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk

3. The NHS England website's statistics page holds information on continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care from 2017-18 onwards. For your reference, the link to this page is [Statistics » Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care](#)

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 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**