

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–155

North East and North Cumbria ICB
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By Email

6 August 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 21 July 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am writing to request information about adult mental health services in High Secure Units (HSUs), Medium Secure Units (MSUs), Low Secure Units (LSUs) and Psychiatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) – specifically where these services fall under adult mental health commissioning (excluding learning disability or other specialist pathways).

From what I have read, services may be commissioned under a combination of spot contracts, out-of-area (OOA) placements, and block contracts, depending on the service type and provider. I am seeking to better understand the structure of commissioning and the associated payment flows.

Please provide the information separately for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (Year to Date) for the following:

1. Spot Contracts (excluding OOA):
 - a. Total spend (in £) on spot-priced adult mental health patients
 - b. Total number of adult mental health bed days commissioned
 - c. Average fee (in £) per bed day, by type (HSU, MSU, LSU, PICU)

2. OOA Contracts

- a. Total spend (in £) on out-of-area adult mental health patients
- b. Total number of adult mental health bed days commissioned
- c. Average fee (in £) per bed day per bed, day by type (HSU, MSU, LSU, PICU)

3. Block Contracts

- a. Total value (in £) of the block contract for adult mental health services, by provider
- b. Total adult mental health bed days commissioned under the block, by type (HSU, MSU, LSU, PICU)
- c. Average fee (in £) per bed day under the block, by type (HSU, MSU, LSU, PICU)

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.

The commissioning of High Secure Units (HSUs), Medium Secure Units (MSUs), Low Secure Units (LSUs) is the responsibility of the Mental Health Provider Collaborative and as such we don't hold this information. Any commissioning which is done would be via block contract agreements with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, which are not broken down to that level of detail.

For your reference, the link to the North East and North Cumbria Provider Collaborative website is [Home: NENC Providers](#)

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**