

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–380

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By Email

16 January 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 by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 6 January 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, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding pathways and criteria for elective breast surgery procedures.

Please provide a flowchart (or description of steps) that explains the decision pathway for elective breast reduction and breast asymmetry referrals. Please include timescales where possible.

Please provide the roles of the individuals or multi-disciplinary team panel members responsible for the decision-making process regarding the policy for elective breast reduction and breast asymmetry within your organisation.

Under the policy for breast reduction and asymmetry are listed the following criteria:

- Breast reduction planned to be 500gms or more per breast or at least 4 cup sizes.
- Surgery can be approved for a difference of 150 – 200gms size as measured by a specialist.

Please provide a description of the process used to carry out these assessments, including any guidelines, protocols, or criteria followed. Please provide the roles or departments responsible for conducting these assessments.

If possible, I would like this information provided in electronic format. Should my request require clarification or refinement, please contact me to discuss.

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.

The Value Based Clinical Commissioning Policy details the Breast Reduction Policy, however, this is available within the NENC ICB publication scheme which can be accessed on the ICB website: [icp040-value-based-clinical-commissioning-policy-v13-0.pdf](#)

In accordance with s.21 of the FOIA, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

The attached Individual Funding Request (IFR) SOP describes the IFR decision making process. Physical assessment of criteria is not carried out by the ICB and are the responsibility of the patient's referring clinician prior to a request for funding being made.

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 complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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 sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer