

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24-471

[NECS – John Snow House](#)
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300
E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

By Email

14 March 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 27 February 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 submitting the following questions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please answer the following questions regarding [this tender \(notice identifier: 2023/S 000-025810\)](#):

1. As the host ICB, disclose the total cost incurred by the integrated care board (ICB) in running, or being part of, the non-emergency patient transport service (NEPTS) procurement exercise.
2. A breakdown of these costs. This should include (but is not limited to):
 - External consultancy or advisory fees, including the names of these consultancies or advisory firms; and
 - Legal costs, including the names of the legal firms used; and
 - Any other associated expenses.

If there are any other significant costs involved that have not been described here, then please disclose them.

3. If available, the estimated cost of continuing the NEPTS contracts with the North West Ambulance Service, and the West Midlands Ambulance Service, who cover Cheshire, until the new contracts are in place from 1 April 2026.

Our Response

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 NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB, as host/lead commissioner.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, their FOI email address is mlcsu.foiteam@nhs.net Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

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