

Our Reference      North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 25–146

**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 16 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**

I request information based on page 3 of the Minutes of the North East and North Cumbria Network Maternity Clinical Advisory Group meeting on 12 September 2023 (attached for reference).

1. In reference to the following: "[Redacted] has looked at MBRRACE and local stillbirth data for James Cook Hospital for year to September 2023 [...] and concluded that the outcome would not have been materially affected by whichever chart was used to define SGA."

I request that the ICB shares the exercise described in these minutes – analysis showing that using Intergrowth fetal weight and birthweight charts would not have made any material difference to outcomes at James Cook Hospital Sep 2022 – Sep 2023.

2. In reference to the following: "There is a consensus that the benefits outweigh the risks but there is a small 'theoretical' risk that must be acknowledged that, in implementing the proposals, there could be an increase in stillbirth related to missed fetal growth restriction. There is acknowledgment that this will require ongoing monitoring." [...]

[Redacted] will be escalating this to the LMNS Board as it is a complex problem and we are empowered to track the impact of this guideline."

[www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk) 

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Please share the following:

1. All documentation of the escalation to the LMNS Board that the introduction of Intergrowth charts could lead to an increase in stillbirth rates.
2. The LMNS' plan to monitor this risk and track the impact of the new Fetal Growth Monitoring guideline.
3. The LMNS' documentation of all monitoring of the guideline's impact since September 2023.
4. The LMNS' documentation of any correspondence about the risk of using Intergrowth charts, since August 2023.

## 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. The LMNS do not hold this information, at the point of the change this function was managed by the NHS England's Maternity Clinical Network.

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 England or South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT).

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 address for STHFT in the table below. The FOI email for NHS England is [england.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:england.contactus@nhs.net). Please write "Freedom of Information" in the subject line.

To note: The use of Intergrow growth charts did not go live in the NENC LMNS until 2 April 2024 at 08:00 when the switchover from Perinatal Grow to Intergrow took place. Prior to this the Trusts were using Perinatal GAP Grow Charts which were in place for the time period September 2022 to September 2023.

2. There was no escalation from the Clinical Network to LMNS Board in November 2023 as such there are no minutes relating to such an escalation.
3. The LMNS took over the clinical expert and advisory groups which sat within the Clinical networks on 01 April 2024. The new LMNS Governance structure was not agreed until the 21 May 2024. The new chairs of Clinical Expert and Advisory Groups were appointed, and the first meeting of the Fetal Medicine Clinical Expert and Advisory Group was on 4 October 2024.

We actively engage with all eight provider trusts to monitor safety, effectiveness, experience, and operational functions via the Perinatal Quality Surveillance Model.

Provider Trusts are responsible for implementation and monitoring of the guideline. A list of NENC ICB acute trust FOI addresses is provided in the table below.

4. We were made aware of a risk relating to the technical display of charts in electronic patient records in July 2024.

This was actioned via LMNS Clinical Leads and a paper circulated to provider trusts with mitigating actions on 24 July 2024. It was escalated to the NHS England national Digital Lead Midwife and relevant EPR provider. This risk was included on our risk register. The EPR provider has addressed the issue, and the risk has been resolved.

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.

<b>NENC Acute Hospital FTs</b>	<b>Email</b>
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

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](http://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](http://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**