

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–135

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By Email

15 July 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 7 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 would like to request some information that the ICB holds. This is information about clinical IT systems that GPs in the ICB use in their practices and a current NHS framework for these IT systems.

I'll first give you some background about this framework and summarise the information already provided to me by NHS England in response to separate FOIs. I'll then provide the details of this current FOI request to the ICB. NHS England have already confirmed that the information I am requesting is held at an ICB level.

Background

NHS England have made funding available to ICBs in connection with a GP IT framework called the "Tech Innovation Framework" (TIF). The funding was available as part of an initiative called the "Early Adopter programme". I've provided supporting information below relating to this funding, and the role of the ICB:

- **Tech Innovation Framework: Early Adopter support**
<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/digital-care-services-catalogue/tech-innovation-framework/early-adopter-support>

'How you will be supported' section: *Funding is also available to support organisations with the discovery and implementation stages of their project. This will help cover any financial implications for the organisation as well as the wider system, for example the ICB funding the cost of migration.*

- **Practices switching to latest cloud-based GP clinical systems could get financial help worth thousands**

<https://managementinpractice.com/news/practices-switching-to-latest-cloud-based-gp-clinical-systems-could-get-financial-help-worth-thousands/>

Funding will be available to early adopters at each stage of the journey, with agreed inputs and outputs for each stage, a spokesperson for NHSE said. To qualify for funding, practices will need the support of their ICB in becoming an early adopter of a TIF solution.

The NHSE spokesperson told Management in Practice: 'More detail on this funding is available to those who are interested, but as an indication there is up to £20K available per discovery and up to £100K available per pre-deployment, depending on the complexity and size of the change and planned transformation.'

NHS England funding available to ICBs under his programme breaks down into three categories - "Discovery", "Pre-deployment", and "Deployment". In two recent FOIs, NHS England has confirmed the following:

- North East and North Cumbria ICB has received £20,000 in funding as part of the TIF Early Adopter programme. (Ref: FOI-2501-2181381 NHSE:0679882)
- North East and North Cumbria ICB funding breaks down into: Discovery £20,000; Pre-deployment £0; Deployment £0. (Ref: FOI-2501-2181381 NHSE:0679882)
- North East and North Cumbria ICB has supported 1 GP practice with this TIF Early adopter funding. (Ref: FOI - 2506-2229435 NHSE:0816810)
- This funding has been available to ICBs since 2022/2023 to the current financial year. (Ref: FOI - 2506-2229435 NHSE:0816810)
- NHS England have released the information they hold in full. However, they have confirmed that:

"NHS England does not hold details of the total funding each GP practice has received. Funding is distributed by NHS England to ICBs who are responsible for agreeing and distributing appropriate funding to GP practices" (Ref: FOI - 2506-2229435 NHSE:0816810).

FOI Request to the ICB

The information provided by NHS England in these FOIs confirms that ICBs hold the "GP practice level" funding data for TIF Early Adopter programme. The funding is provided by NHS England to the ICBs, who then distribute it to practices. It is the ICBs who know how much funding they allocated to each practice who has engaged with the programme. This includes which phase of the programme the funding was for. It includes information across the financial years FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25.

My FOI request to the ICB is as follows:

1. For the 1 practice in the ICB who you have distributed Early Adopter programme funding to, please provide information on how much total funding *the individual GP practice in the ICB* has received to date. This should be in each of the financial years FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25. As an example, this information could be provided in a tabular form, with the following columns:

GP Practice ID	Financial Year	Total Funding Discovery (£)	Total Funding Pre-Deployment (£)	Total Funding Deployment (£)	Overall Total Funding (£)
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2. Please can the GP Practice ID be the practice's Organisation Data Service (ODS) code, i.e. the six-digit code that uniquely identifies each GP practice (e.g. the one in the form "A12345"). If there is a clear legal reason why the ODS code cannot be provided, then please still provide the information, but with an anonymised GP practice ID (e.g. Practice_#1, Practice_#2, etc...).
3. If it is not possible under the reasonable requests of an FOI to obtain the financial year for each funding allocation, this can be provided as an aggregate for each practice – i.e. the financial year column could be removed and just the *total* amount of funding provided to each practice provided. In this case the table columns would be, for example:

GP Practice ID	Total Funding Discovery (£)	Total Funding Pre-Deployment (£)	Total Funding Deployment (£)	Overall Total Funding (£)
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Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

GP Practice ID	Financial Year	Total Funding Discovery (£)	Total Funding Pre-Deployment (£)	Total Funding Deployment (£)	Overall Total Funding (£)
A81017	2024/25	£20,000	£0	£0	£20,000

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**