

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 25–170

North East and North Cumbria ICB
Pemberton House
Colima Avenue
Sunderland Enterprise Park
Sunderland
SR5 3XB

Tel: 0191 512 8484
E-mail: nencicb.foi@nhs.net

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 29 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

1. Can you please provide “*The funding of the Merit Service is based on a historic costing model that meets the needs for the North East population*” to be clear I am looking for the costing model for this money.
2. Can you also identify the responsible officer / registered manager at both NEAS and ICB at the current time and then back ward for the last 5 agreements.
3. Do you hold any information as to why NEAS would be giving £750k approx (that you gave to them) every year when zero other ambulance trusts in the country work in this fashion, with almost all giving zero £ (the next highest excluding NEAS is under 10,00 pounds that was paid for training and or room hire).

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. Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are not given specific advice on how to distribute funding to MERIT services. The ICB is given an overall annual funding allocation to use to fund all health services it is responsible for commissioning in consideration of the health needs of its population. The costing model that we referred to is the national funding model that determines

the overall funding allocation that ICBs receive. Details of this model can be found here [NHS England » Allocations](#)

2. The responsible officers from the ICB and NEAS are detailed on their individual websites and where there have been changes over the last 5 years these will be detailed in their published Annual Report. Links to the websites are:

NENC ICB: [NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board](#)

NEAS: [Home: North East Ambulance Service](#)

3. NENC ICB does not hold the information you have requested. The ICB receive assurance through their contract meetings with NEAS on the effectiveness of subcontracts that are in place. If you require any further information regarding these services, please contact North East Ambulance Services Foundation Trust directly.

In accordance with our duty under s.16 of the FOIA to provide reasonable advice and assistance to an individual requesting information, the NEAS freedom of information email address is freedom.of.information.requests@neas.nhs.uk

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**