

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\
FOI ICB 24–181

NECS – John Snow House
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By Email

13 August 2024

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 24 July 2024 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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. Do you commission a Tier 3 specialist weight management service? Is it located within your ICS catchment? If not, where are people within your ICS requiring Tier 3 weight management services typically referred?
2. If you commission a tier 3 service, is it currently accepting new referrals? And if it is not accepting new referrals, when did this come into effect?
3. Do you fund bariatric surgery for people living in your ICS?
4. Please list all the current criteria that are used within your ICS for funding decisions regarding bariatric surgery -For example, but not limited to, BMI cut-offs, type 2 diabetes status, time in Tier 3 weight management service, requirement for preoperative weight loss, comorbidities etc.
5. Is there a commissioned/designated bariatric surgery service located within your ICS catchment? If not, where are people requiring bariatric surgery within your ICS typically referred?
6. Is there a Wegovy pilot site located within your ICS?
[<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-drugs-pilot-to-tackle-obesity-and-cut-nhs-waiting-lists>]

Our Response

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

1. Yes – commissioned services from North Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (FT), Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT (covering Northumberland and North Tyneside), The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS FT, County Durham and Darlington NHS FT and South Tees Hospitals NHS FT (covers North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS FT)
2. All services are accepting referrals.
3. Yes, bariatric surgery is funded within the NENC ICB.
4. Bariatric surgery criteria as per NENC ICB Value Based Clinical Commissioning Policy – Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Evidence Based Interventions List 3 Guidance and NICE CG189, updated July 2023.
5. Bariatric surgery is provided by Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT, County Durham and Darlington NHS FT, South Tees Hospitals NHS FT and North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS FT
6. The previous government announced funding for pilots to see if the newest approved weight loss drugs could be safely prescribed with specialist weight management service support outside of hospital settings. These had not launched before the general election. Next steps on obesity medicines are being considered by the current government.

NHS England is working with stakeholders including ICBs and the Department of Health and Social Care to look at how to rollout new obesity medicines in a sustainable and managed way.

Within NENC ICB, work is underway to ensure consistent services are provided across all commissioned tier 3 services in the ICB in line with a new service specification. This will ensure prescribing will be delivered by all tier 3 services.

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