



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB611

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

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

22 November 2023

Dear

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 10 November 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley (which covers the 5 councils that make it up – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

1. Please can you send me an org design with the names and email addresses and contact numbers of all your central functions Directors? Specifically, Directors of Finance, BI, Health and IT.
2. Please can you also confirm if these are interim or substantive staff members.

Our Response

1. The NENC ICB structure chart is publicly available on the ICB website as follows: <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/media/wwkjtlnk/nhs-north-east-and-north-cumbria-organisational-chart-organogram-v1-as-at-1-dec-2022.pdf>

The contact details for the ICB are also available from their website at:

[Contact us | North East and North Cumbria NHS \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk)

In accordance with s.21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is reasonably accessible to you by other means.

2. On this occasion it is not possible to confirm which posts on the attached organisational structure are interim or substantive staff members. 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 hold this information however, it is exempt from disclosure by virtue of s.22 FOIA2000 which exempt information intended for future publication. NENC ICB are currently undertaking a restructuring exercise following the amalgamation of the former Clinical Commissioning Groups last year, and as such are in a period of consultation to best determine how they can meet the emerging needs of their local communities.

It is considered that it is reasonable in all the circumstances that information should be withheld from disclosure until the intended date of future publication. The NENC ICB are consulting with their employees on their staffing requirements in the future, which includes preparing new organisational structures which may be subject to change until the consultation period has concluded. It is expected for the organisational structure detailed with postholders to be made available on the NENC ICB website after 31st March 2024. We believe that to adhere to the agreed publication schedule is sensible, in line with accepted practices, and fair to all concerned. With this sort of information, it is correct to manage the availability of the information by planning, controlling its publication, the timetable of publication requires internal consideration of the information prior to its public release. Therefore, we believe it is reasonable all the circumstances to withhold this information at this time.

There is no doubt there is public interest in knowing the organisational structure of the NENC ICB however, we would argue that this interest is more than satisfied within the information previously shared with you in our response to your request. Additionally, we do not believe the public interest is served by releasing unverified organisational structures that have not been finalised which may contain misleading information when a small delay in allowing this process to complete this process will allow accurate information to be shared within the next four months accompanied with any contextual information. Therefore, on this occasion we believe the public interest lies in maintaining this exemption.

In line 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 make a complaint or 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 complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. 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