



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB654

NECS – John Snow House
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5 December 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 4 December 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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please could you provide answers to the questions below by email:

1. Do you have a specialist service for long Covid patients? Please name the clinic/service.
2. How many patients in your local NHS area have been referred to the clinic/service to date?
3. How many staff do you have working in the service FTE (full time equivalent) broken down by job title of:
 - a) doctor
 - b) nurse
 - c) physiotherapist
 - d) occupational therapist
 - e) clinical psychologist/psychiatrist/ CBT practitioner
 - f) other, please specify
4. For any doctors employed, please specify their specialism e.g. GP, cardiologist, neurologist
5. Does the service have the ability in-house to prescribe medications to long Covid patients?

6. If so, please list the 3 most common drugs prescribed for long Covid patients by the clinic
7. Does the service have the ability to order tests and scans?
8. If so please list the 3 most commonly ordered tests/scans/diagnostic questionnaires for long Covid patients by the clinic
9. Please provide figures for how many patients referred to the clinic/service received the following type of treatment:
 - a) A wellbeing programme
 - b) physical rehabilitation
 - c) psychological support
 - d) A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 - e) drug treatment
 - f) other, please specify
10. If not provided in-house, which of the following types of services does the clinic/service refer patients on to or recommend?
 - a) A wellbeing programme
 - b) physical rehabilitation
 - c) psychological support
 - d) A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course, such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 - e) drug treatment
 - f) other, please specify
11. Is the clinic expected to continue running after 2025?
12. **For English ICBs only** Which NHS trust is responsible for the care of patients referred to a long Covid clinic in your area?

****If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please prioritise the questions in the order they are written.**

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

Our Response

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought. However, we have determined the records are held by Acute Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts within the North East and North Cumbria region.

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 acute hospitals to make your request.

NENC Acute Hospital FTs	Email
County Durham & 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 & 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 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