



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB725

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
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26 January 2024

Applicant Name
By Email

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 Freedom of Information (FOI) request received by the North East and the North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) on 24 January 2024.

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).

We have dealt with your request in accordance with your “right to know” under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (subsequently referred to as FOIA2000) which entitles you to be provided with information “held” by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Your Request

I'd like to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that you please provide answers to the following questions, along with any related details.

- 1) The total annual number of referrals to fertility units within your ICS in years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023
- 2) How many of these referrals, per year, were rejected?
- 3) What was the average waiting list time for referrals, per year, to fertility units within your ICS?
- 4) How many of these referrals, per year, were rejected due to missing/incomplete tests?

Our Response

On this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information. 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 not hold any of the information requested.

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 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 make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Information Governance Officer 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

Yours sincerely

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer