



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference PA\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ICB378

Your Reference ICB378

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2 June 2023

By Email

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 17 May 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (NENC ICB). 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;

Request

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- **What electronic referral pathways are in place between optometry and secondary care within North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board?**

- **What proportion of optometry practices are able to access each platform?**

Response

County Durham place

1 - There is an electronic solution available for urgent referral requests via NHS Mail or secure email (square brackets) from high street opticians direct to the local trusts CDDFT and SEI. This in the main would be for referrals to the fast-track clinics for example suspect wet AMD, BRVO and also urgent eye clinic at CDDFT and the emergency eye department at Sunderland Eye Infirmary.

2 - There is no direct electronic referral platform in place for routine ophthalmology referrals from high street opticians to ophthalmology

Newcastle Gateshead, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland place

1 - Opera and e-SR – NHS e-Referral Service

2 - In accordance with section 1 of the Act this information cannot be provided as it is not held by the ICB. This information is not held by the ICB but it may be held by the provider Primary Eyecare Services Ltd

North Cumbria place

1 - There is no electronic referral platform in North Cumbria. There are some extended services for certain pathways, and they utilise Opera to send referrals where these are required via NHS.net or eRS integrations.

2 - At present 17 practices are using OPERA for CUES in North Cumbria.

Tees Valley place

1 - The electronic referral pathways in place are, Urgent fast tract, TARS service for Cataract referrals and ERS. These are all electronic referrals via email.

2 - In relation to the answer provided in point 1, all optometry practices have access to email.

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.gov.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

Paul Atkinson

Paul Atkinson
Information Governance Officer