



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference HM\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB713

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14 February 2024

Applicant
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 request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 18 January 2024 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).

Your Request and our response

From July 2022 to December 2023 inclusive:

1. How many people receiving fast-track NHS continuing healthcare had their funding reviewed through an assessment?
2. Of these, how many were:
 - a) found no longer eligible for fast-track funding?
 - b) provided with NHS-funded nursing care?
 - c) remained eligible for funding?

In all instances, can the data be broken down by calendar month.

County Durham



CD Return.xlsx

Newcastle Gateshead



Data return.xlsx

North Cumbria



NC Return.xlsx

North Tyneside



FOI713 - NTyne.xlsx

Northumberland



FOI ICB713 -
NOR.xlsx

South Tyneside



FOI713 - STyne.xlsx

Sunderland



FOI713 - Sun.xlsx

Tees Valley



TV Return.xlsx

Please also provide any historic data you hold, prior to July 2022, for the above questions.

As ICBs were first legally established on 1st July 2022, there is no collective data held by NENC ICB for NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) packages for historic data. The eight clinical commissioning groups were reorganised and amalgamated into one single organisation namely the NENC ICB in July 2022. We have determined the cost of finding, answering, and assembling the responses to each of your questions for the eight clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) for historic data, would exceed the cost limit of £450 for the NHS as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

s.12(1) of the FOIA provides that a public authority is not obliged to retrieve any of the requested information if the cost of locating, retrieving, and extracting information would exceed the "appropriate limit". The limit for the NHS equates to 18 hours' work and can relate to one request in its entirety or a series of linked requests.

Therefore, to locate, retrieve and extract the NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) packages for historic data prior to July 2022 would require each of the eight former Clinical Commissioning Groups to complete a search of their own records to identify what information may fall within the scope of these questions. There is no central record where this information is held.

To estimate how long it would take for one former CCG to retrieve any relevant information we have consulted with each place who calculated it would take approximately 30 hours for CHC teams to complete for County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley. The request asks for information pertaining to historic data, there are four questions which would require data analysis to be able to answer each of your specific questions. To explain our position further, the only way to identify, extract, record and retrieve each former CCG's exact CHC fast track funded cases broken down, would require a manual process to those cases where a funding recipient directly matches the criteria of your request.

In accordance with our duty to provide advice and assistance under s.16 FOIA 2000, we have estimated that we may be able to answer some elements of your request if they were refined to one specific former CCG, or topic or area or financial year. We should also point out we have estimated that any revised request submitted for CHC funding data for all the former eight clinical commissioning groups (CCG's) would also exceed the appropriate limit for the required earlier years. Should you refine your request for data for one specific former CCG for all requested years or for one specific year for all CCG's we may be able to provide this within the appropriate limit of 18.5 hours. However, we should advise that we have not yet considered whether any exemptions to disclosure may apply to such future requests.

If you were to resubmit a revised request for information, we will treat this as a new FOI request, and the 20-working day limit will begin again. In accordance with s.17 FOIA 2000, this letter represents a refusal notice.

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. 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

Hilary Murphy

Hilary Murphy
Information Governance Officer