



# North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference HM\North East and North  
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB607

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28 November 2023

## **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 09 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).

### **Your Request**

1. Are there AQP providers for audiology in your ICB area?  
If there are AQP providers:
  - a. Who are the providers?
  - b. What is the length, value and end date of each of their contracts?
  - c. Is there a lead AQP provider?
  - d. What is the type of AQP agreement? What is the criteria for each agreement i.e. do over 55's go to audiology, or do the AQP work in partnership with audiology and how are patients divided between these providers?
2. What is the current length of the waiting list for audiology appointments?
  - a. How many patients are currently on the waiting list for audiology services?
  - b. What is the average waiting time for people on the audiology waiting list?
  - c. Can patients self-refer to audiology? If so, how?
3. Who is the lead member of staff responsible for commissioning AQP audiology services? (Name and email address)

### **Our Response**

County Durham



County Durham.docx

## Gateshead



Gateshead.docx

## South Tyneside and Sunderland



STyne & Sun.docx

## Tees Valley



Tees Valley.docx

## Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside and Northumberland

*Q1. We do not have an AQP provider commissioned for audiology services.*

*Q2. N/A given we do not have an AQP provider in place. Please redirect this question to the Foundation Trusts.*

*Q3. We do not have a dedicated lead for commissioning audiology services.*

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](http://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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

*Hilary Murphy*

**Hilary Murphy**  
**Information Governance Officer**