

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria
ICB\FOI ICB831

NECS – John Snow House
Durham University Science Park
Durham
DH1 3YG

Tel: 0191 301 1300

E-mail: necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net

Applicant
By Email

17 April 2024

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 21 March 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

Under freedom of information legislation, I would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions concerning the community pharmacy independent prescribing pathfinder programme:

1. How many Pathfinder sites did you have within your area as at 31 January 2024?
2. How many Pathfinder sites do you have within your area now?
3. How many expressions of interest/applications were received to take part in the Pathfinder pilot in your area?
4. What criteria were used to score expressions of interest/applications?
5. How many of those who expressed interest/applicants were accepted from the total that applied?
6. Please provide details of much will those (i.e., a contractor) receive for taking part in the Pathfinder programme including any set up payment, monthly payments etc.

Our Response

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB does hold the information requested.

1. 10

2. 10

3. 21

4. *Eight questions were used to assess the quality of each provider proposal. The contracts were awarded to the ten bidders who achieved the highest scores for quality as assessed by an ICB selection panel.*

5. 10 pharmacies

6. *Each pathfinder can claim for up to 24 sessions per month at a rate of £197.76 per session (each session is 4 hours, i.e. £49.44 per hour) when they start providing the Pathfinder programme. They also receive a set-up fee of £1500.*

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 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