



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB623

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

Tel: 0191 301 1300
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17 November 2023

Dear

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 16 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).

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

I am writing to submit a formal Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding periocular and facial surgical funding policies for patients with thyroid eye disease (TED) or facial nerve palsies (FNP) within your organisation.

I kindly request access to any available information related to the funding policies concerning periocular surgical procedures such as brow lift, blepharoplasty, upper eyelid weights and botulinum toxin injections for the aforementioned medical conditions.

Specifically, I am interested in understanding whether you have specific funding policies for patients with TED or FNP, and/or whether they are exempt from needing to meet criteria or follow the individual funding requests in place for patients without these conditions.

Although I recognise that such patients may also undergo other surgical procedures such as facial suspension/re-animation and thyroidectomy, I am only requesting information on procedures that fall under the remit of oculoplastic procedures (though these may sometimes be carried out by plastic surgeons).

I would be grateful if you could complete the attached tables to ensure complete clarity of understanding, though I would also like to receive copies of any relevant policies in full if available, please.

As required by the Freedom of Information Act, I look forward to receiving your response within the statutory 20-working-day period. If there is a need for an extension, please provide the reason for the delay and an estimated timeline for the information's provision.

Our Response

The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) does not hold the records which you have sought. 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.cddfffoi@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 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

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

S Davies

S Davies
Information Governance Officer