



# North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference SD\North East and North  
Cumbria ICB\FOI ICB280

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

Tel: 0191 301 1300  
E-mail: [necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.icbfoi@nhs.net)

27 March 2023

Dear

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 15 March 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 (ICB). This covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley.

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

### **Request**

I respectfully apply under the Freedom of Information Act for figures in respect of the following over the past 10 years.

1. The number of individual applications in Durham County for CHC funding
2. The number of successful CHC funding applications at initial assessment
3. The number of overturned decisions by the appropriate panel following initial assessment decisions
4. The number of overturned decisions on appeal to an independent body following unsuccessful assessments applications
5. The Durham County Council / NHS policy for informing individuals or families (where there is no mental capacity) of the opportunity for CHC funding and Funded Nursing Care
6. The policy of Durham County Council of an independent appeal procedure for challenging a Financial Assessment for funding of care fees

### **Response**

Please note that the responses relate to the period 2017 to 2023 (year to date).

NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB may hold the information requested in your questions for the 3 years prior to 2017. However, in accordance with section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and is set at £450 for NHS bodies. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the ICB holds the information and locating, retrieving, and extracting the information.

Please see the following calculations for data collection of this request:

Estimated number of applications per year = 1750 (5250 in total for 3 years)  
 Estimated time = 10 minutes per file, 52,500 minutes in total (875 hours)  
 Cost = £25 per hour  
 Total cost = 875 x £25 = £21,875.00

The estimated time is based on the need to examine and extract individual records and data, to assimilate the information that is required. NENC ICB expect this this work will take approximately **875 hours**. The cost per hour is **£25**, giving a total cost calculation of 875 hours x £25 = **£21,875.00**.

If you wish for the ICB to consider this request further, please let us know and your request will be treated as a new request; however, please be advised that some questions may be subject to exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For the period, 2017 to 2023, the responses are as follows:

1. The number of individual applications in Durham County for CHC funding can be seen in the table on the left, below
2. The number of successful CHC funding applications at initial assessment can be seen in the table on the right, below

**Number of Referrals**

Row Labels	Number of Patients
CHC	10761
2017	1986
2018	2654
2019	2302
2020	926
2021	1314
2022	1282
2023	297
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10761</b>

**Number of Referrals with an outcome of CHC**

Row Labels	Number of Patients
CHC	934
2017	259
2018	271
2019	195
2020	71
2021	90
2022	41
2023	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>934</b>

3. The number of overturned decisions by the appropriate panel following initial assessment decisions is 41.

4. The number of overturned decisions on appeal to an independent body following unsuccessful assessments applications is 12.
5. The Durham County Council / NHS policy for informing individuals or families (where there is no mental capacity) of the opportunity for CHC funding and Funded Nursing Care. In addition, the following points were noted:
  - We have CHC as a service delivered by NECS on our website
  - We work jointly with the LA and deliver a joint training package so that all staff are informed of CHC and processes and can act accordingly.
  - We have in the past held roadshows for CHC.
  - For retrospective claims we had radio advertisements, leaflet drops in GP surgeries and dentists, libraries and supermarkets
  - Stands in hospital foyers for CHC information and even held blood pressure check stands in supermarkets as part of an awareness campaign for CHC
6. NENC ICB does not hold this policy. Please redirect your query to Durham County Council using the email [foi@durham.gov.uk](mailto:foi@durham.gov.uk)

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

Yours sincerely

*S Davies*

**S Davies**  
**Information Governance Officer**