

Our Reference North East and North Cumbria ICB\  
FOI ICB 24-212

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By Email

23 August 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 20 August 2024 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (the ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland, and Tees Valley (which covers the five local authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees).

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

**Your Request**

I am writing regarding an FOI data request for your ICS about expenditure sign off processes. Please find all relevant questions below and we look forward to receiving the data within 20 working days.

1. Which ICB is your ICS in?
2. In the financial year 2023-24, was your organisation in a deficit or surplus compared to your financial forecast?

***If you answered 'surplus' to Q2, please proceed to Q7. If you answered 'deficit' please answer all remaining questions.***

3. Have you agreed to breakeven or be in surplus with your ICB by the end of the 2024-25 financial year?
4. In the financial year 2023-24, how many applications for investment were submitted through the triple lock sign off protocol in your ICS?

5. At the time of asking, how many applications for funding made by trusts in your ICS are currently being considered through the triple lock protocol and what is the total value of these outstanding applications?
6. Based on the experience of your organisation, on average how long does an application for funding take to be approved through the triple lock sign off protocol?
7. Has the introduction of double and triple lock sign off protocols improved the financial sustainability of your organisation?

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If you need any clarification on any part of my request, then please contact me using this email address.

Under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance I would expect you to contact me if you find this request unmanageable in any way before the twentieth working day. If for any reason you are not able to fulfil all parts of my request, please respond to those that you can respond to, setting out your reasons for no responding to the entire request.

## **Our Response**

We can confirm, as per Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ICB holds some of the information you have requested.

1. The ICS is not part of the ICB. It is a system comprising the ICB and multiple NHS provider organisations. The North East and North Cumbria (NENC) ICB is part of the NENC ICS.
2. Both the ICB and ICS were in a surplus position compared to agreed financial plan. Please refer to the ICB annual report and accounts for 2023/24 which are publicly available on the ICB website for further details. The link is [Publications | North East and North Cumbria NHS \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/publications)
3. The ICB has agreed a surplus financial plan position for 2024/25, however the overall ICS position is a planned deficit for 2024/25. Please refer to 2024/25 financial plan presented to ICB Board which is publicly available on the ICB website for further details.
4. NENC ICB answered 'surplus' to Q2.
5. NENC ICB answered 'surplus' to Q2.
6. NENC ICB answered 'surplus' to Q2.
7. This question is not relevant to NENC ICB.

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](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 faithfully

*S Davies*

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