

The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 - Regulation 25

**Annual Summary
1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026**



In accordance with Regulation 25 of The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board is required to produce an annual summary of its contracting activity for the provision of relevant health care services.

1. Number of contract awards in the period to which this summary relates:
 - Direct Award Process A: 6
 - Direct Award Process B: 9
 - Direct Award Process C: 24
 - Most Suitable Provider Process: 0
 - Competitive Process: 1
2. Number of framework agreements concluded in the year to which this summary relates: 0
3. Number of contracts awarded based on a framework agreement in the year to which this summary relates: 0
4. Number of contracts awarded, and modifications made in reliance of Regulation 14 (Urgent Award or Modification) in the year to which this summary relates: 6
5. Number of new providers to whom a contract was awarded in the year to which the summary relates: 0
6. Number of providers who held a contract in the previous year but no longer hold any contracts in the year to which the summary relates: 0
7. Number of written representations made in accordance with regulation 12(3) and received during standstill periods which ended in the year to which the summary relates and a summary of the nature and impact of those representations: 2

A key primary care procurement was completed successfully during the year. Two written representations were received and considered as part of the procurement process, with an independent review upholding the original award decision. Following conclusion of the standstill period without further representation, the contract was awarded and mobilisation commenced as planned.

8. Details of any reviews by the Independent Patient Choice and Procurement Panel: 0

During the reporting period, no contract awards were referred for review by the Independent Patient Choice and Procurement Panel.

Regulation 26 compliance statement

Under Regulation 26 of The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 the relevant authority must monitor compliance with the Provider Selection Regime and publish on a freely available web site an annual report which provides the results of its compliance monitoring and how any non-compliance will be addressed.

The ICB has monitored its compliance with the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. During this period, the ICB has applied the requirements of the PSR Regulations when determining the appropriate processes for contract awards and modifications. Through the ICBs compliance monitoring activities, the ICB has identified instances where PSR notices were either not published or were published outside the timescales specified within the legislation.

The ICB has identified several factors which contributed to this non-compliance, including:

- Organisational capacity pressures arising from competing operational priorities and the need to adhere to statutory procurement and contracting timescales.
- Changes to commissioning support arrangements, including the transfer of functions previously undertaken by Commissioning Support Units (CSUs), which reduced access to specialist procurement and contracting resources and necessitated the development of additional in-house capacity to support compliance with PSR requirements.
- Staff turnover and changes in responsibilities across commissioning and procurement functions, requiring ongoing training and development to maintain organisational knowledge and expertise in relation to PSR.

In line with Regulation 26, the ICB has reviewed the areas of non-compliance and is implementing the following actions to address the non-compliance:

- Development of additional in-house procurement capability to support the transition of functions previously delivered through Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) arrangements.
- Appointment of a Head of Procurement to provide strategic oversight of procurement activity, strengthen compliance monitoring, and ensure the consistent application of Provider Selection Regime (PSR) requirements across the ICB.
- Implementation of a revised governance framework to support ICB cluster working, providing clearer oversight, decision-making and assurance arrangements for procurement, contracting and PSR activity across the cluster

These actions will be implemented during 2026/27 to strengthen compliance with the PSR, improve monitoring and governance arrangements, and reduce the risk of future non-compliance.

