

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/12/194

3rd January 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI/12/194

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request dated the 12th December 2022. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board does hold the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below:

In relation to last financial year (21/22) could you please provide me with information relating to the first 20 occasions in which you sanctioned the use of a patient's Personal Health Budget (PHB) to be spent on something that was NOT for the provision of care, medicine, or transport to a place where care or medicine was provided?

1) For each of these 20 occasions please state (i) what the money was spent on and (ii) how much money was spent on it and (iii) the outcome the patient was working towards as a result of this spend.

Note: What I am after is any capital expenditure which is not immediately apparent as of a medical purpose. So, a specialist bed would be medical and I would not want to know about it, but a large screen television for a patient with vision problems would be something that I am interested in, as somebody not familiar with the case would not be able to tell that the set had been bought because of the patient's vision problems. The request covers PHBs for both adults and children.

Please be advised that we review all of our current cases through quarterly financial reviews, and annual financial audits in line with our Personal Health Budget Policy, a copy of which is attached. The list of exclusions is detailed below. We can confirm that there has been no unauthorised expenditure that was not for the provision of care, medicine, or transport to a place where care or medical was provided.

5.7.3 A personal health budget cannot be spent on:

- i. Anything not related to your assessed healthcare needs.
- ii. Any services or goods not detailed in your authorised health support plan.
- iii. Anything that is illegal.
- iv. Urgent or emergency treatment such as unplanned in-patient admissions to hospital.
- v. Primary medical services provided by GPs including diagnostic testing, basic medical treatment, or vaccinations.
- vi. Employing a close family member and/ or someone who lives with you unless stated otherwise in the agreed support plan. Where it is in the agreed support plan (by exception and on an individual basis) that a family member (s) can be employed, this is on the basis that the PHB is managed through a third-party agency (see paragraph 4.11).

Interim Chair: David Pearson

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

- vii. Household bills, household goods, household repairs and any alterations to a property, clothes, or groceries.
- viii. Repaying debts.
- ix. Anything that places you or others at unacceptable risk.

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- x. Holidays, flights, accommodation, and meals.
- xi. Any non-bespoke equipment. The ICB would expect that equipment would continue to be sourced through usual routes (i.e., Community Equipment Stores).
- xii. Funding for mileage for Personal Assistants to get to their place of work.
- xiii. Transport to and from appointments.
- xiv. Alcohol and tobacco.
- xv. Gambling.
- xvi. Anything that would bring the ICB into disrepute.
- xvii. Something which may damage an individual's health
- xviii. Anything precluded by the Regulations.

We can confirm that all cases are manually reviewed and there is no record of any capital expenditure which is not immediately apparent as of a medical purpose.

There has been one justified case which relates to a tablet for a patient which was part of their PHB Support Plan.

The ICB has a robust and rigorous process in place for the review of all cases, which includes (1) bi-weekly meetings; (2) quarterly financial reviews and (3) an annual audit. All costs incurred are authorised by the ICB.

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.



**Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent**
Integrated Care Board

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance