

Our Ref: PW/TLR/FOI/1225/1543

18th December 2025

Smithfield One
Leonard Coates Way
Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 4FA

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear Sir/Madam

FOI/1225/1543

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Further to your email dated Wednesday 10th December 2025 for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We can now confirm that Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website. The ICBs response is provided below in [blue](#) text.

You have requested:

I would be grateful if you could provide responses to the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- 1. Do you either routinely fund, or provide criteria-based access to funding for any hand surgery procedures that may be considered partly aesthetic (e.g. removal of benign lumps, ganglion cysts, Dupuytren's contracture with mild deformity, trigger finger release or scar revision)?***

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) ICB do not fund routinely fund procedures that have been identified as being of Low-clinical-value or are asymptomatic and/ or cosmetic purposes. These procedures are out lined in our Excluded Restricted Procedure (ERP) Policy.

- 2. If you do provide criteria-based access, please provide details of the criteria, or indicate where this information can be found.***

staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/your-nhs-integrated-care-board/our-publications/governance-handbook/all-policies/commissioning/icb-excluded-and-restricted-procedures-policy/?layout=file

- 3. Are there specific conditions or functional thresholds that must be met before funding is approved (e.g. pain, impairment of hand function, or occupational impact)?***

These are outlined in the ERP Policy – link as above.

4. Is prior approval required before listing patients for such procedures?

All procedures that are identified as restricted within the ERP Policy need prior approval before the procedure is undertaken.

5. How long has the current policy been in place, and are there any planned or pending changes to this policy?

SSOT ERP policy was last updated in July 2025. The policy gets updated a minimum of once a year but can be updated as many as 3 times a year depending on clinical changes. All updates are published on the internet.

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 ICB FOI team by emailing; staffsstokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter within 40 working days of the initial response.

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.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance