

Our Ref: PW/KJJ/FOI/0625/1316

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

15th July 2025

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI/0625/1316

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on the 11th June 2025. We can now confirm that the 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. Please note the ICBs responses in blue.

Please provide me with a copy of the contract and any and all associated policies/documents under which Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust is contracted by the ICB to provide a paediatric and young people's continence service, to include a continence service for disabled children and young people.

We can confirm that the ICB does not hold any associated policies or documents related specifically to paediatric and young people's continence service.

We can confirm that the contract in question has not yet been finalised or signed. Work is currently ongoing, under the Service Development and Improvement Plan (SDIP), to define and agree the service scope and requirements. Once this work is complete, a formal and confirmed contract will be issued. We anticipate that the contract will be agreed and available by 31 December 2025.

Please see the table below for more information around the SDIP relevant milestones, timescales and expected benefits.

	Milestone	Timescale	Expected Benefit
<p>Service Specifications *</p> <p>Commissioners and Provider to work in partnership to agree a programme to review services specifications within the contract that will enable consistency and alignment of services across Staffordshire.</p> <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-year service specification 	<p>Priority services for review to be agreed between ICB and MPFT this work is to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG rating services for review with red items being completed in three months of sign off of plan assigning leads, timescales, how this will be done and commitment to resources to ensure delivery <p>Consideration to be given to</p>	<p>31st August 2025</p>	<p>To achieve the delivery of this SDIP the collaborative working on the review and development of the contractual service specifications will require both Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICB and MPFT working together to define and refine the details of a service, ensuring it meets the needs of patients and supporting financial stability and the wider healthcare system. This approach emphasises shared commitment, pooled resources, and transparent communication to achieve optimal service delivery</p>

<p>review plan with all priority / red RAG'd service specs reviewed by 31/07/2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other services specifications will be delivered over the remaining time period (until the 31/03/2027) with the option to extend if necessary, by variation to the SDIP Streamlined format for service specification – no more than two sides Clear outcomes framework with limited number of measures / reports to provide assurance and evidence achieving outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Health and Care Programme (delivery of components 4,5 & 6) Transformation agenda Resources and activity risks Inconsistency across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent in patient care 		
	<p>Develop simplified approach to service specifications that ensure core elements are delivered: Service outline, pathway, inclusion and exclusion criteria, clearly defined outcomes focused on a few core metrics that provide assurance and demonstrate outcomes.</p> <p>Communication of services to be reviewed to all applicable parties, including times lines.</p>	<p>31st December 2025</p>	

** The SDIP is in both the main MPFT Mental Health and Community and MPFT East Staffordshire Community draft contracts for 25-26*

Under Section 22(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), we are applying an exemption to withhold the requested information on the grounds that the information is held with a view to its publication at a future date.

The contract will be published once finalised and agreed. While we recognise there is a general public interest in early disclosure of service information, we believe that premature disclosure of a draft or incomplete agreement (particularly while the SDIP is ongoing) would present a risk of public misunderstanding and operational confusion and would not serve the public interest at this time.

We have conducted a Public Interest Test (PIT), which you will find attached, and concluded that the balance lies in favour of maintaining the exemption at this stage.

We would also like to offer some background to the time taken in responding to your request. A significant portion of the 20-day extension (allowed while the Public Interest Test was conducted) was required to confirm whether the relevant information was held and to establish whether your request referred to the full MPFT contract or the continence service specification in isolation. At the time your request was submitted, the contract documentation was still under negotiation and had not yet been finalised or signed, meaning it was not formally "held" by the ICB. It has taken until now to confirm that the specific item (the service specification) requested also still remains in development and is being produced as part of ongoing SDIP work. We expect this work to conclude between September and December 2025, and you may wish to consider submitting a new FOI request after that point to obtain the completed specification.

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 sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance

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