

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/10/580

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI-10-580**

**Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information received on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. We can 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 see our responses in blue below:

**We would like to request information pertaining to the referral pathways for Gastroenterology and diagnostic endoscopy, and Dermatology within the NHS Staffordshire and Stoke On Trent ICB Region.**

**Could you please confirm the processes in which patients are offered choice for eligible providers and referred into these services, and, if possible, provide a referral pathway flow?**

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICB (SSOT) support the Choice Agenda. All GPs are encouraged to send all Gastroenterology and Dermatology patients to our referral management team which is called "Choice and Referral Centre".

When patients have been referred to the Choice and Referral Centre the Team then make contact with patients directly. The Team talks the patient through their choice options. The Team then uses this information when they review providers that are on E-Referral Service (ERS) and then offer the patient choice of five providers. The majority of our Gastroenterology and Dermatology patient's choose providers that are geographically closest to them based on their postcodes.

**We would also ask for confirmation of the Service Specifications along with a list of contracted providers for the following services:**

- **Dermatology**
- **Gastroenterology and diagnostic endoscopy**

The majority of SSOT patients choose one of the following providers: University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust, University Hospitals of Birmingham NHS Trust and Health Harmonie's other providers are offered depending on what is important to the patient.

There are no specific Service Specifications for the Acute Trusts. Attached is the Service Specification for our independent provider.

Details below are the contact details for the providers for your information:

**University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust**  
<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/contact-us/>

**Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust**  
<https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/>

**University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust**  
<https://www.uhdb.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi/>

**University Hospitals of Birmingham NHS Trust**  
<https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information.htm>

**Health Harmonie**  
[Health Harmonie Limited - view and make Freedom of Information requests - WhatDoTheyKnow](#)

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](mailto: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.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Paul Winter**  
**Associate Director of Corporate Governance**