



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

Our Ref: PW/TLR/FOI/0126/1576

11th February 2026

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

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear Sirs

FOI/0126/1576

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Further to your email dated Thursday 15th January 2026 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding the financial flows and contractual arrangements between the ICB and it's commissioned NHS Trusts for the provision of medical retina services, specifically concerning anti-VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) medicines [Appendix A].

Please provide answers to the following questions for each NHS Trust provider of Medical Retina services that the ICB commissions. Please provide the information electronically in Excel spreadsheet format, specifying the named NHS Trust for each set of answers.

1. Contractual Structure

- **Are anti-VEGF drug costs currently reimbursed to the Trust via:**
 - **a) A pass-through mechanism (cost-and volume)?**
 - **b) A fixed block contract (inclusive of drug spend)?**
[Yes, \(University Hospitals of North Midlands, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton and Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust\)](#)
 - **c) An Aligned Incentive Contract (AIC) or "Blended Payment" model?**
- **If a blended/AIC model is used, what is the specific split between the fixed element and the variable (volume-based) element for high-cost anti-VEGF drugs?**

2. Efficiency and Savings Incentives

- **Is there a formal Gain-Share Agreement in place between the ICB and the Trust regarding the use of biosimilar anti-VEGF agents?**
No there is no formal agreement.
- **If yes, what percentage of the saving is retained by the Trust vs. the ICB, is there a cap on total savings a provider can retain, and is the gainshare for new patients only?**

3. Funding flows in 2026/27

- **Are announced ICB arrangements for merger/cluster/split from April 2026 changing the anti-VEGF funding contractual structure and/or gain-share agreement with the Trust, and if so how?**
No there are none.
- **What is the NHSE-recommended reference price for anti-VEGF drugs in your region, and is the ICB implementing this reference price with the Trust from April 2026?**
This is exempt under s41 of FOIA as the information was provided in confidence and is subject to confidential contractual and commercial agreements. Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides an absolute exemption for information obtained by a public authority from another person (including other authorities) if its disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence. Because it is an absolute exemption, it does not require a formal ICO public interest test

Appendix A: Medical Retina Drugs Covered by this Request

Please include data for the following agents in your response: Alfibercept, Ranibizumab, Faricimab, Bevacizumab, Brolucizumab.

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