



Our Ref: PW/TLR/FOI/0425/1262

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI/0425/1262**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Your request asked the following:

***Please provide me with copies of all correspondence between the planning and finance teams and NHS England in relation to the system operational planning submission during April 2025***

Kindly note that we are unable provide the requested information, as it is exempt under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 12(1) of the FOI Act allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate cost limit. For Integrated Care Boards, this limit is set at £450, equivalent to 18 hours of staff time, calculated at a statutory rate of £25 per hour. Due to the volume and dispersed nature of correspondence across both the planning and finance teams, covering multiple staff members, we estimate that locating, retrieving, and extracting all relevant information would significantly exceed this limit.

You may wish to consider narrowing the scope of your request (i.e. limit the request to a specific team or specify particular types of correspondence).

Should you wish to refine your request please note that other exemptions might still be applicable: -

- Section 40(2) – Personal information relating to third parties (e.g. staff names or contact details);
- Section 41 – Information provided in confidence (e.g. NHS England disclosures);
- Section 43(2) – Commercial interests, if any financial planning details are commercially sensitive.

The above exemptions would be considered on a case-by-case basis and, where applicable, subject to the Public Interest Test.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

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