



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

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/11/608

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

27th November 2023

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-11-608

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 15th November 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:

I am writing in relation to news that the Government has refused requests from NHS England to allocate £1 billion to address the financial impact on NHS budgets from industrial action, and that NHSE has now told finance directors that c. £600m from the previously ringfenced "service development fund" for several improvement initiatives can be repurposed to support their financial plans.

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/electives-and-capital-to-be-cut-after-treasury-refuses-1bn-strike-cash-plea/7035934.article>

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/cancer-prevention-and-learning-disabilities-set-for-sensible-budget-raids/7035947.article>

Under the Freedom of Information Act regulations, I would like to request the following information:

- 1. What is your estimated YTD deficit, and how much of this has been caused by industrial action?**

2. In light of reports that NHS England has told finance directors that they can utilise underspends in the development of cancer, prevention, learning disabilities and autism services, as well as dentistry, to manage this deficit, which areas have you identified for budget reductions this year, and by how much?

Please be advised that Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to your request as the financial plan is currently being prepared and is intended to be published when finalised and approved by the ICB Board.

A Public Interest Test has been applied which is attached herewith. Also details of Section 22 can be found below:

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Information intended for future publication:

1. *Information is exempt information if:*
 - a) *the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
 - b) *the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
 - c) *it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).*

Section 22 is a qualified exemption, and we are required to conduct a Public Interest Test when applying any qualified exemption. This means that after it has been decided that the exemption is engaged, the public interest in releasing the information must be considered. If the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it then the exemption does not apply and it must be released. In the FOIA there is a presumption that information should be released unless there are compelling reasons to withhold it. We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information requested ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable.

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 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

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance