



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

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0124/705

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear Sir/Madam

**FOI-0124-705**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. 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:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations, I would like to request the following information:**

**The criteria for keloid scar excision and more information about the appropriate/recommended channels of seeking approval via IFR (Individual Funding Requests).**

**1. Please state the name of your ICB?**

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB.

**2. Does surgery for keloid scars require funding approval in your ICB?**

Refer to Excluded and Restricted Policy at [staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/your-nhs-integrated-care-board/our-publications/governance-handbook/all-policies/commissioning/icb-excluded-and-restricted-procedures-policy-v3-1/?layout=default](https://staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/your-nhs-integrated-care-board/our-publications/governance-handbook/all-policies/commissioning/icb-excluded-and-restricted-procedures-policy-v3-1/?layout=default)

**3. If funding is required, is this through a prior approval process (i.e. defined criteria must be met), an individual funding request or another route?**

As above, where procedures are not routinely commissioned the only route that funding may be secured is via the Individual Funding Request (IFR).

**Chair:** David Pearson MBE

**Chief Executive Officer:** Peter Axon

The full IFR policy and supporting documents including the IFR clinicians' and panel members' guide can be found on our website: <https://staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/contact-us-2/individual-funding-requests/>

**4. How many applications for keloid scar excision surgery did you receive within your ICB in 2023?**

See table below:

<b>Date Range: 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023 inclusive</b>	<b>Number of Keloid Scar Excision Requests</b>	<b>How Many Approved</b>	<b>How Many Declined</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Locations</b>
	4	0	4	Not exceptional, benefits a group as per IFR Policy (see link previously given). Advised IFR process however IFR application not received.	Trunk, Upper Limb and Face

**5. Relating to question 4, how many applications were approved?**

See table above.

**6. Relating to question 4 and 5, what were the anatomical locations of the applications that were received? Please provide a breakdown according to the following areas:**

- a. face
- b. ear
- c. trunk
- d. upper limb
- e. lower limb

See table above.

**7. Relating to question 4, how many cases were declined?**

See table above.

8. Relating to question 8, what were the reasons for declining the requests? Please provide a breakdown according to the following reasons:
- a. Not causing functional impairment
  - b. Not causing symptoms
  - c. Considered cosmetic
  - d. Case not considered “exceptional”
  - e. Other (please specify)

See table above.

9. If you cannot provide a breakdown for cases, please indicate the reason(s) that most commonly apply:
- a. Not causing functional impairment
  - b. Not causing symptoms
  - c. Considered cosmetic
  - d. Case not considered “exceptional”
  - e. Other (please specify)

See table above.

10. With regard to all funding applications your ICB has received, please provide an overall breakdown of the ethnicity of these patients? If you do not have data regarding ethnicity, answers can be based on visual impression of the Fitzpatrick skin types (shown below):

## The Fitzpatrick Scale

					
<b>TYPE I</b>	<b>TYPE II</b>	<b>TYPE III</b>	<b>TYPE IV</b>	<b>TYPE V</b>	<b>TYPE VI</b>
Light, pale white	White, fair	Medium, white to olive	Olive, moderate brown	Brown, dark brown	Black, very dark brown to black
Always burns, never tans	Usually burns, tans with difficulty	Sometimes mild burn, gradually tans to olive	Rarely burns, tans with ease to a moderate brown	Very rarely burns, tans very easily	Never burns, tans very easily, deeply pigmented

- a. Type 1
- b. Type 2
- c. Type 3
- d. Type 4
- e. Type 5
- f. Type 6

Data not provided. One patient where photographs have been received Type IV on the Fitzpatrick scale.

**11. Please consider the following hypothetical case, as though it were a real application, and indicate your response:**

- 27 year old woman
- Fit and healthy
- No past medical history
- No allergies
  
- Five year history of large keloid scar on right ear lobule from an ear piercing.
- Stable in size for 4 years, no spontaneous improvement.
- Has had a course of intralesional steroid injections at another facility 2 years ago with no improvement.
- No previous surgery.
- Causing embarrassment, social withdrawal, and persistent pruritus, as well as discomfort when lying down.
- On examination: 4x3cm, firm, slightly tender, right ear lobule keloid scar.
  
- Secondary care plastic surgery consultant is requesting approval for excision under local anaesthetic, as a 30minute day case procedure. Intended as a single surgical episode, with the likelihood of adjuvant steroid injections performed in the outpatient clinic during the follow-up period.

**Please advise if this case would be approved.**

This is an excluded procedure, therefore consideration will only be considered via the IFR route.

**12. If not, please indicate the reasoning.**

**N.B. If your policy is for such cases to only be considered following an IFR, please state this below. In such cases, we will provide a completed IFR form and would be grateful if you would consider this according to your usual protocol.**

As above, please refer to IFR policy – link previously given.

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.



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

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**