

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-06-395

12th June 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

**FOI-06-395**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 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 write on behalf of a group of researchers gathering information on the availability of ICB funding for IVF for women who meet all established criteria, but do not have a uterus. Specifically, we are interested to know if women with Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome have provision for funded IVF in your ICB.**

**Please could you kindly answer the following questions by return of email:**

- 1. Does your ICB fund IVF for women who do not possess a uterus, but meet all other set-out criteria, and are willing to fund the cost of a surrogate?**
- 2. Does your ICB fund IVF for women who have MRKH, but meet all other set-out criteria, and are willing to fund the cost of a surrogate?**

In both instances (MRKH syndrome and women with no uterus) a successful pregnancy would only be possible via a surrogate. The Surrogacy Arrangements Act 1985 makes commercial surrogacy illegal, the ICB is therefore unable to commission IVF in either of these cases.

**Right of Appeal**

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**