

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-07-477

24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

**FOI-07-477**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 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:

- 1) Please tell me, from 2018 to the date of this email, how many patients you commissioned to have a tattoo removed?**

The only route that funding can be sought is on the grounds of clinical exceptionality. The ICB has not approved any patients for tattoo removal during the period stated.

- 2) In each event, please tell me the total cost to your authority?**

Not applicable.

- 3) Finally, please tell me what guidelines/criteria you apply in deciding whether or not to commission such a procedure (e.g. only for the removal of offensive tattoos on the face, gang tattoos, self-image problems). Please provide me with copies of any internal documents that spell out these guidelines?**

**NOTE:** Given I am asking for historical data, please include data that relates to commissioning activity carried out by now defunct CCGs that were incorporated into your ICB. I do not require a breakdown by year or former CCG area.

Please find below the link to the Excluded and Restricted Procedures Policy on the ICB website:

[staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/your-nhs-integrated-care-board/our-publications/governance-handbook/all-policies/commissioning/icb-excluded-and-restricted-procedures-policy-v3-0/?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-v3-0/?layout=default)

Section dermatology and plastic surgery on page 23 states the exclusion.

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**