

Our Ref: SY/AKB/FOI-04-337

30th May 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-04-337

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Further to your request for information received on the 14th April 2023 and subsequent queries following our response of the 10th May 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:

Many thanks for your timely response. However, there are a number of aspects to the reply which do not provide the requested information:

- **The first piece of requested information was "Copies of all documentation relating to the review undertaken by the former CCGs CPAG that the above quoted text is referring to [quoted text in original request], including a full breakdown of the scoring for assisted conception and the rationale and justification for the scoring that was assigned?". Your response states that this is available in Enclosure 1 and Enclosure 2 which you attached to the below email message:**
 - **Enclosure 1 includes a tabular scorecard on Page 7, however, the scoring column is blank and there is no mention of numerical scores elsewhere in the document. Enclosure 1 does not provide a full breakdown of the scoring, or a justification and rationale for the assigned scoring as a result.**
 - **Enclosure 2 provides a total score for fertility treatment of 75 but does not provide a breakdown for the individual scoring factors which resulted in this total, or any form of rationale and justification for the total score that it does present.**
 - **Therefore, neither Enclosure 1 or Enclosure 2 fulfil this Freedom of Information Request. Please can a response be provided which fulfils the request underlined in the above parent bullet point?**

Please accept my apologies for this error, the correct enclosures (with scores) are now attached.

- **The second piece of requested information was "Documentation which defines the assessment approach and scoring process, including what scores are assigned"**

against (e.g. what categories, features, figures of merit or similar) as well as the requirements for different numerical scoring values or thresholds to be assigned (e.g. what are the requirements for a score value of 1, or 2, or 3, etc or similar)?". Your response takes the form of a link to the ICB's Policy on the prioritisation of healthcare resources.

- 5.3 of this document states "The criteria in the scorecard have been subject to clarification through discussion by CPAG and supplementary papers are used to enable the group to apply criteria consistently." To support the fulfilment of the information request, please can these supplementary papers be provided as the linked document does not fully fulfil this in isolation?

The supplementary scoring paper is now attached.

- The fourth piece of requested information was "**Evidence which demonstrates that the review was conducted by a group of Suitably Qualified and Experienced Persons, and that it involved sufficient technical and clinical expertise within the specific field of assisted conception. This does not require any personal information to be shared, since this could be demonstrated in a perfectly adequate way using anonymised data?**" Your response states that this is available in Enclosure 3 and points to Page 2 of this enclosure.
- - Enclosure 3 is simply a Terms of Reference document for the CPAG document which includes a membership list. It in no way demonstrates that the particular review in to Assisted Conception carried out by the Former CCGs CPAG was performed by individuals who were Suitably Qualified and Experienced for this particular task. It certainly does not provide any information which demonstrates that the review included sufficient technical and clinical expertise within the specific field of assisted conception. Is the ICB able to provide any information which fulfils the intent of the request underlined in the previous parent bullet point?

Public Health Consultant(s) provide the technical expertise in undertaking the literature review and coordinating evidence papers for a given topic. A mix of clinical and non-clinical members were included in the CPAG membership at the time of scoring (see minutes of the meeting and CPAG terms of reference) who regularly applied the scoring framework against the evidence presented.

Intervention specific specialists are not included within the membership of CPAG e.g. clinical specialists in the field of assisted conception. As such there is no further information to share with regard to this element of the request.

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 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

Sally Young
Director of Corporate Governance