

Our Ref: PW/KJJ/FOI/0925/1439

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

1st October 2025

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear Sir/Madam

FOI/0925/1439

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on Monday 22nd September 2025. We can now 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 note the ICBs responses in blue.

I am writing to make a formal request for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding collaborative working and joint working arrangements entered into by your organisation and companies in the pharmaceutical industry.

For clarity, I'm talking about formal arrangements between an NHS organisation and one or more pharmaceutical companies, governed by the Department of Health and Social Care's definition: "Situations where, for the benefit of patients, one or more pharmaceutical companies, the NHS and others (e.g. Patient Groups) pool skills, experience and/or resources for the joint development and implementation of patient-centred projects and share a commitment to successful delivery."

Transparency is a must for these projects, according to both the government and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry.

ABPI oversees the implementation of its code of practice, which contains specific instructions for industry when participating in joint working projects. It says: "All Joint Working projects must be underpinned by a formal Joint Working Agreement, an executive summary of which must be made publicly available before the project begins."

I would therefore like to request the following records from you:

A copy of the executive summary of each joint working agreement your ICB entered into with a pharmaceutical industry company from 1 April 2019 to 31 August 2025. Please include any records that were held by the predecessor organisations, the clinical commissioning groups, that are now held by your ICB.

[The ICB do not hold any records in relation to the above request.](#)

A copy of the ICB's policy on joint working with the pharmaceutical industry.

- In respect of your request for a copy of the ICB's policy on joint working with the pharmaceutical industry, this information is already publicly available and therefore exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (information accessible to the applicant by other means).
- You can access the policy via the following link: staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk/your-nhs-integrated-care-board/our-publications/governance-handbook/all-policies/corporate-policies/commerical-sponsorship-policy/?layout=file

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 ICB FOI team by emailing; staffsstokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter within 40 working days of the initial response.

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 faithfully

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance