



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

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/11/605

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

20th November 2023

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI-11-605

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 15th November 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 am writing to submit a formal Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding periocular and facial surgical funding policies for patients with thyroid eye disease (TED) or facial nerve palsies (FNP) within your organisation.

I kindly request access to any available information related to the funding policies concerning periocular surgical procedures such as brow lift, blepharoplasty, upper eyelid weights and botulinum toxin injections for the aforementioned medical conditions.

Specifically, I am interested in understanding whether you have specific funding policies for patients with TED or FNP, and/or whether they are exempt from needing to meet criteria or follow the individual funding requests in place for patients without these conditions. Although I recognise that such patients may also undergo other surgical procedures such as facial suspension/re-animation and thyroidectomy, I am only requesting information on procedures that fall under the remit of oculoplastic procedures (though these may sometimes be carried out by plastic surgeons).

I would be grateful if you could complete the attached tables to ensure complete clarity of understanding, though I would also like to receive copies of any relevant policies in full if available, please.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SSOT) ICB does not have specific policies for thyroid eye disease (TED) or facial nerve palsies (FNP). SSOT does have a Excluded Restricted Procedure (ERP) policy and some of the procedures that you have

Chair: David Pearson MBE

Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

enquired about are included within this policy, the ERP has been included within our response. The ERP is also available on the SSOT website. [Our publications and policies - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

Where patients do not meet eligibility criteria within the ERP policy, The only route to apply for funding is on the basis of clinical exceptionality. The full IFR policy and supporting documents including the IFR clinicians and panel members guide can be found on our website: [Individual Funding Requests - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Integrated Care Board \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

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

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance