



Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0324/774

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

18th April 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI-0324-774

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 26th March 2024. 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:

As part of our study into the impact of the outsourcing of ophthalmology services to the independent sector we are writing to all Integrated Care Boards asking them to provide us with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- 1. A copy of any assessment undertaken by the ICB – contained in the form of internal reports or presentations – of the impact on waiting times for patients seeking ophthalmology services as result of the use of the independent sector to deliver cataract surgery.**

There does not appear to be any assessment specifically looking at the impact of using the independent sector to deliver cataract surgery on wait times for ophthalmology services.

- 2. A copy of any audit or assessment undertaken by the ICB– contained in the form of internal reports or presentations - of the electronic/digital/online system for the referral of patients from optometry practices to NHS Trusts or independent sector providers.**

There does not appear to be an audit or assessment re electronic / digital / online systems for the referral of patients from optometry practices to NHS Trusts or independent sector providers undertaken by the ICB.

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS are currently implementing the NHS England / Improvement electronic eyecare referral systems (EeRS) for the two-way transfer of patient and clinical data (including images and OCT scans) between eyecare services.

3. A copy of any letters or correspondence between the ICB and representatives of local optometry businesses – for example Local Optical Committees – regarding the referral of NHS funded patients to independent sector providers and NHS Trusts.

Please see attached information as requested.

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 ICB 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