

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-05-373

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

**FOI-05-373**

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

Further to your request of the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for clarification of our response to your FOI request of the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 sent on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 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:

**Please note the link below to a policy outlined on the NHS website.**

**<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/B1244-nepts-eligibility-criteria.pdf>**

**This was included on all previous correspondence. I ask the respondent to read carefully.**

**My previous question related to section 3D of this report which indicates that ALL patients travelling by own means can claim travel expenses to and from irrespective of income or means.**

**You will note that section 6 of this policy deals with the 'Help to hospital scheme' and has completely different criteria in that it is income related and only applicable to those on income related benefits.**

**I, therefore, submit that the respondent has failed to answer my question which was specifically written in relation to the above document in particular section 3D that indicates '...upfront/reimbursement costs for private travel will be made available.'**

**In terms of your response:**

**Are you saying that the ICB endorses expense claims from Haemodialysis patients through the HTH scheme irrespective of means and that this is your**

**solution under section 3D and if so how do we claim proving eligibility if we are not on means tested benefits?**

As previously stated, the ICB has made arrangements locally for renal patients to claim reimbursement via HTCS route. The arrangements have been carried out in collaboration with the Divisional Manager at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.

**or**

**Is the ICB simply ignoring their responsibilities in honouring the pledges outlined in the 2021 NETPS report produced by NHS England and outlined in the attached policy?**

**What plans has the ICB have to implement a UNIVERSAL system to claim expenses as outlined in the report?**

The ICB finance team are aware of the recommendations and have advised this will be taken into consideration for review in due course.

### **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](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)



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

Yours sincerely

**Paul Winter**  
**Associate Director of Corporate Governance**