



Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0824/953

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

21<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear Sir/Madam

**FOI-0824-953**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 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:

**I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, details in respect to the below relating to the provision of Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS), Pathology Specimen Courier, Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Transport and Mental Health Transport to your ICB.**

**Please make use of the Excel template attached for you to simplify the fill in process and standardise the information.**

The details I require are:

1. Do you currently use external suppliers for:
  - a) NEPTS
    - i. If not, do you plan on using them in the future?

Yes.

- b) Pathology Specimen Courier
    - ii. If not, do you plan on using them in the future?

Please be advised that the ICB does not hold this information. Your request should be sent to the following Providers:

**University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust**  
<https://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/contact-us/>

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust  
<https://www.uhdb.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi/>

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust  
<https://www.royalwolverhampton.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/>

University Hospitals of Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust  
<https://www.uhb.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information.htm>

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust  
Freedom of information - The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (dgft.nhs.uk)

- c) **SEND Transport**  
iii. **If not, do you plan on using them in the future?**

Please be advised that the ICB does not hold this information. Your request should be sent to the following Local Authorities:

**Staffordshire County Council**  
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Your-council-and-democracy/Request-and-access-information/Request-and-access-information.aspx>

**Stoke-on-Trent City Council**  
[https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20032/our\\_data/153/freedom\\_of\\_information\\_requests](https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20032/our_data/153/freedom_of_information_requests)

- d) **Mental Health Transport**  
iv. **If not, do you plan on using them in the future?**

Please be advised that the ICB does not hold this information. Your request should be sent to the following Providers:

**Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust**  
<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-information>

**North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust**  
<https://www.combined.nhs.uk/get-in-touch/freedom-of-information/>

2. For the financial years (April – March) 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:

- a) What was your annual spend on the following services, split by internally or externally provided:
- i. **NEPTS**
    1. **Internally provided**
    2. **Externally provided**

Please see attached document.

- ii. **Pathology Specimen Courier**
  - 1. **Internally provided**
  - 2. **Externally provided**

See response to question 1B above.

- iii. **SEND Transport**
  - 1. **Internally provided**
  - 2. **Externally provided**

Please see response to question 1C above.

- iv. **Mental Health Transport**
  - 1. **Internally provided**
  - 2. **Externally provided**

Please see response to question 1D above.

- b) **How many journeys were provided for following services, split by internally or externally provided:**
  - i. **NEPTS**
    - 1. **Internally provided**
    - 2. **Externally provided**

Please see attached document.

- ii. **Pathology Specimen Courier**
  - 1. **Internally provided**
  - 2. **Externally provided**

See response to question 1B above.

- iii. **SEND Transport**
  - 1. **Internally provided**
  - 2. **Externally provided**

Please see response to question 1C above.

- iv. **Mental Health Transport**
  - 1. **Internally provided**
  - 2. **Externally provided**

Please see response to question 1C above.

- 3. **The following information regarding the current provision of the following services:**

**a) NEPTS:**

- i. Name of the current NEPTS provider(s)**

ERS Transition Limited t/a ERS Medical, now part of the EMED Group.

- ii. Total contract value**

£50,321,333 (current value, contract is subject to NHS inflation updates.

- iii. Start date**

- iv. End date**

**b) Pathology Specimen Courier:**

- i. Name of the current Pathology Specimen Courier Service provider(s)**

- ii. Total contract value**

- iii. Start date**

- iv. End date**

See response to question 1B above.

**c) SEND transport:**

- i. Name of the current SEND transport provider(s)**

- ii. Total contract value**

- iii. Start date**

- iv. End date**

Please see response to question 1C above.

**d) Mental health transport:**

- a) Name of the current Mental health transport provider(s)**

- b) Total contract value**

- c) Start date**

- d) End date**

Please see response to question 1C above.

**4. (if applicable) the following information regarding the previously used provider for the following services:**

**a) NEPTS:**

- i. Name of the previous NEPTS provider(s)**

E-Zec Medical Transport.

- ii. Reason for change**

There was a full procurement process to award a new contract following the expiration of the previous one.

**b) Pathology Specimen Courier**

- i. **Name of the previous Pathology Specimen Courier provider(s)**
- ii. **Reason for change**

See response to question 1B above.

**c) SEND transport**

- i. **Name of the previous SEND transport provider(s)**
- ii. **Reason for change**

Please see response to question 1C above.

**d) Mental health transport**

- i. **Name of the previous Mental health transport provider(s)**
- ii. **Reason for change**

Please see response to question 1C above.

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**