

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-08-516

1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

**FOI-08-516**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 24<sup>th</sup> August 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 can you explain the process of allocating NHS funds for NHS patients sent to Private Hospitals and Clinics for treatment, especially in terms of your ICB budget.**

**I would be grateful if you can also tell me who is responsible (roles) for setting and managing these budgets within your ICB.**

Under the NHS- Constitution, patients have the right to choose any accredited service provider for their first consultant appointment and subsequent care. This includes any accredited independent sector care provider.

Integrated Care Boards are required to establish an accreditation process for service providers that wish to provide NHS services and this arrangement is overseen by NHS-England to ensure that the process is fair and maximises the opportunities for patient choice, whilst maintaining quality and value for money.

As a result of this Staffordshire and Stoke -on-Trent ICB holds contracts with a range of independent sector service providers. There is no specific budget attached to Independent sector spending but contract values, which are set annually are based on the financial value of the work that each provider is likely to do based on both past performance and planning discussions.

Payments to independent sector providers are at NHS payment system rates, meaning that the price paid under these arrangements is the same wherever the patient is treated.

The ICB nominates a contract manager for each independent sector provider and they will work with a multidisciplinary team including quality, finance, business intelligence etc. to manage the performance of the provider and the associated cost.

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)

Yours sincerely

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