

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/11/620

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI-11-620**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 trying to understand how referrals are managed within your ICS, or by any of clinical networks that cover your ICS and the organisations involved.**

**Centralised referral management**

- 1. Does your ICS manage any patient referrals centrally, or is this only done by a Trust? Please detail the specialty / modality that have centrally managed referrals, either by the ICS or Trust. Please name the Trust or Trusts that are responsible for centrally managing referrals.**

Within Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (SSOT) there is not a centrally managed referral service for the whole of the SSOT ICS. SSOT ICB have a Referral Assessment Service for the following specialities. Please note these arrangements were in place prior to the creation of the ICB therefore only North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent GP referrals are managed by these services.

- \*RAS\* Ophthalmology Choice and Referral Centre, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB: We refer to CHEC and University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.
- \*RAS\* Ears, Nose and Throat (ENT) Choice and Referral Centre, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB: We refer to OMNES and University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.

- **\*RAS\* Gastroenterology Choice and Referral Centre, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB:** We refer to University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.
- **\*RAS\* General Surgery Choice and Referral Centre, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB:** We refer to CHEC, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, Nuffield and Extended Minor Surgery service.
- **\*RAS\* Vascular Surgery Choice and Referral Centre Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB:** We refer to University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.
- **Plastics RAS:** We refer to University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust and Extended Minor Surgery.

**2. If your ICS or Trusts do not currently manage referrals centrally, do you have any plans to? What is the timeline? Which organisation will lead this?**

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS does not have a plan for developing a central managed referral process. The ICS does have a Referral Optimisation Group that is in the process of exploring the opportunity of developing a referral review process.

**3. What networks operate across your ISC (e.g. endoscopy, pathology, cardio, cancer, etc)?**

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS does not have any managed networks that have referral managed pathways.

**4. How does referral management work in these networks? Are network specific referrals managed centrally by the ICS or are these referrals managed centrally by the network? Please give details of any networks that centrally manage referrals. If this is not in place currently are there any plans to do so? Please outline what networks and timeline?**

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS does not have any managed networks that have referral managed pathways.

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**