

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-08-492

17th August 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-08-492

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 4th August 2023 and your email of the 9th August 2023 requesting further clarification. 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 like to know the percentage of referrals made by your ICB to Private Hospitals and Clinics versus NHS Hospitals and Clinics.

Are you saying that your ICB's GP Practices do not have to report back to your ICB with details, including costs, when they make referrals to private or NHS health hospitals or clinics?

As I understand it the Referral process is as follows:

- 1. GP refers patient to secondary care for assessment and if appropriate treatment.**
- 2. Patient is sent patient choice letter – this must include 5 different options of provider, although patient can request/opt for another provider anywhere in England which is contracted to provide NHS services. Patients are directed to the My Planned Care website for information • The patient then chooses where they want to be treated and referral is sent to that provider.**
- 3. The provider treats the patient and then “invoices” the ICB for the activity – all providers whether NHS trusts or independent providers are paid the same tariff as published online.**

This process means that you should be able to provide the analysis that I have asked for by use of the invoices you have received across the last 12 months.

We would confirm that the process described by you is correct. We should be able to build up the activity picture from individual invoices, however, to do this would take us considerable time and exceed the 18 hours threshold under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please find below the analysis for the last 12 months detailing the percentage of referrals made to Private Hospitals and Clinics versus NHS Hospitals and Clinics.

Note: ISP's are Independent Sector Service Providers.

Year / Month	% of GP referrals to ISP of ALL Providers
202207	4.70%
202208	4.06%
202209	3.48%
202210	2.66%
202211	3.96%
202212	4.30%
202301	3.67%
202302	2.68%
202303	3.65%
202304	4.39%
202305	4.21%
202306	4.20%
Grand Total	3.82%

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 ICO 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