



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

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-09-539

4th October 2023

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI-09-539

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 18th September 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 writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on behalf of Crohn's and Colitis UK to request the following information:

- 1. Do you have a clear pathway in primary care for the investigation of non-cancer related lower gastrointestinal symptoms that include the use of faecal calprotectin tests? If yes, please attach a copy.**

Please find attached a copy of the ICB Lower GI Pathway as requested.

The ICB has a primary care pathway for the investigation of non-cancer related lower gastrointestinal symptoms. The residents of SSOT are not all supported by one Acute Trust due to this there are variations in the delivery of this pathway. Specific NHS Trust information will need to be request from the Acute Providers as the ICB does not hold this information. Contact details as below:

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/>

2. Are a) qFIT and b) faecal calprotectin tests available in primary care in your area and for what indications?

Both qFIT and faecal calprotectin tests are available in primary care.

Primary Care follow the indications that have been published by NICE for Faecal calprotectin and gFIT testing.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg11>

qFIT – Indications are published by NICE, however for ease of access they are shared here.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg56/chapter/1-Recommendations>

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent qFIT is not compulsory in advance or lower GI urgent cancer referral but can be requested by GPs in parallel in event of the following

- Clear radiological evidence of colorectal cancer on radiology report.
- Ano/rectal mass or ulceration
- Specific circumstances that preclude use of qFIT eg significant issues re capacity etc that prevent use of FIT. This would be very rare.

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and across the West Midlands GPs are advised to consider faecal calprotectin rather than FIT in those patients with relevant symptoms aged under 40.

3. Are a) qFIT and b) faecal calprotectin tests available in secondary care in your area and for what indications?

Both qFIT and faecal calprotectin tests are available in secondary care.

Secondary Care follow the indications that have been published by NICE for Faecal calprotectin and gFIT testing.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg11>

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/dg56/chapter/1-Recommendations>

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