



Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-08-097

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI FOI-08-097:  
Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request dated the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. We can confirm that Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board does hold the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below / attached:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, could you please answer the following questions or share any information related to the questions:**

**How many paper referrals coming from GP practices have been processed for the period of 1 September 2021 - 31 August 2022 within your CCG or all CCGs that fall under your service?**

Referrals to service providers are submitted via the National e-referral service (e-RS) which is a national digital platform used to refer patients from primary care into elective care services. Under the NHS Standard Contract, all GPs in England use e-RS to make all referrals to consultant-led outpatient services.

Further details on e-RS and the national programme can be found on the website: [NHS England » NHS e-Referral Service](#)

Data on number of e-Referrals at ICB level and former CCG is available via the public dashboard, link below:

**NHS e-Referral Service (e-RS) open data dashboard - NHS Digital**

Individual service providers would have to be contacted to obtain information on the number of paper referrals being received for non-consultant led outpatient services but some of these services are now also included on e-RS.

IVF Referrals:

Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group: 64 referrals  
North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group: 29 referrals

**(If you have to provide the answer for more than one CCG, please provide separate answers for each of the CCGs that fall under your service).**

**What were the reasons for printing out referral forms or letters and not completing the whole process electronically?**

This is a restricted pathway and is not on ERS – the same applies for each of the CCGs above.

**(If you have to provide the answer for more than one CCG, please provide separate answers for each of the CCGs that fall under your service).**

**My reason for asking these questions is that I am trying to gather data with regard to the NHS Net Zero policy with the goal of identifying areas that could be improved to reach the goal of net zero emissions by 2040.**

### **Right of Appeal**

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 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**  
**Deputy Director of Corporate Governance,**  
**Compliance & Data Protection/Data Protection Officer**