



Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0524/855

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI-0524-855**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024. 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:

**1. How many postcodes in Staffordshire have, only one choice of GP, they can register at?**

There is a national website <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp> which produces details of GP practices that patients can register with based on their Postcode.

**2. And please can you then explain concisely, how that equals choice and not coercion, precisely?**

The Policy on practice boundaries is set nationally by NHS England (NHSE). Each GP is an independent contractor and sets their boundaries as part of their NHSE contract. It can vary per postcode on the number of available choices of GP Practices and in some cases, there may only be one. Some GP practices can register patients who live outside their practice area. There is no obligation to participate in this scheme – practices can choose whether to register out-of-area patients. You may wish to contact any Practice within your area to ascertain if they wish to take you on as a patient.

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**