



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

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0124/680

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park  
Weston Road  
Stafford  
ST18 0BF

19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

**FOI-0124-680**

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

Thank you for your request for information received on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 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:

**Please find below questions about GP practices in your area and visa sponsor status. GP practices need to have obtained a visa sponsorship license if they want to recruit a GP from outside the UK who needs a skilled worker visa.**

**How many GP practices in your ICB area are licensed visa sponsors currently?**

**How many GP practices in your ICB area were registered visa sponsors 12 months ago?**

Please be advised that the ICB does not hold up to date or complete information relating to this scheme. The information for the above two questions can be obtained from:

[england.midlandsworkforce@nhs.net](mailto:england.midlandsworkforce@nhs.net).

**Is your ICB actively seeking to increase the number of GP practices in the area that are visa sponsors? If so, how?**

The Staffordshire Training Hub launched the GP Skilled Worker Visa Sponsoring practice programme in December 2022 to support Practices with the Home Office costs of up to £3,000 to be claimed retrospectively towards the costs of a licence, renewal licence fee or the GP Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) fee and to date we have supported 23 x GP Practices.

Further information regarding the programme can be located at: [\*\*GP SKILLED WORKER VISA SUPPORT FOR A SPONSORING GP PRACTICE PROGRAMME | Staffordshire Training Hub\*\*](#)

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**