

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-09-116

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

22nd September 2022

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear

FOI FOI-09-109:
Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request dated the 6th September 2022. We can confirm that Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board do hold the information that you have requested. Please see our responses in blue below:

Could you please tell me which GP practices and Pharmacies is Stafford providing the NHS Ailment Scheme please?

NHS England commission pharmacies rather than the ICB and the following was put onto the CCG website in April 2022:

Self-care advice for minor ailments:

Some common conditions that people seek GP appointments for will get better within a short time or can be treated with over-the-counter medicines from a pharmacy.

For a wide range of minor ailments, your local pharmacist should be your first point-of-call because:

- You do not need an appointment.
- There are no waiting times.
- You will see a clinician with expertise in minor ailments and their treatment.
- You can have privacy if you would like it.
- You can leave with appropriate treatment or therapy and guidance on how to use it.

So, from the beginning of September 2022, pharmacies across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent will no longer be offering the Minor Ailments Service free of charge. Instead, people will be offered self-care advice around how they can treat their conditions using over-the-counter medicines.

This is in line with NHS England guidance and follows a national consultation which concluded last year. The consultation showed that 81% of respondents thought there should not be prescriptions issued for self-limiting conditions, and 72% thought they should not be issued if an over-the-counter remedy was easily available.

Where a pharmacist cannot help, they will direct you to the most appropriate local service for your need.

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 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

Yours sincerely

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