

Our Ref: PW/KJJ/FOI/0226/1614

9th March 2026

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Hanley
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 4FA
Telephone: 0300 123 146

Sent by email

Dear

FOI/0226/1614

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on the 10 February 2026. We can now 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 note the ICBs responses in [blue text](#).

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I am writing to request the information about the process and requirements for becoming an approved provider of adult Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnostic assessments under the NHS Right to Choose (RtC) arrangements within NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB.

I would be grateful if you could please provide information on:

1. Whether the ICB is currently commissioning or accrediting independent providers for adult ASD assessments under RtC, and if so, the appropriate route to apply.

[The ICB complies with the national RtC guidance and regulations, there are no restrictions place on any specific services and the route to engage is via this link on the website Contracting and Procurement - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Integrated Care Board](#)

2. The service specification and pathway requirements for adult ASD assessment (for example, eligibility criteria, expected assessment components, multidisciplinary standards, outcome reporting and target waiting times).

[The ICB operates an open enquiry facility to engage on services that are eligible for choice, this can be engaged via this web page which will enable the ICB to share the appropriate service-related information. Contracting and Procurement - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Integrated Care Board](#)

3. The governance and information governance requirements for accreditation, including:
 - o CQC registration expectations;
 - o DSP Toolkit status;
 - o DPIA and data sharing expectations for RtC activity;
 - o Requirements for NHSmail or other approved secure communication routes;
 - o Any mandatory policies (safeguarding, clinical governance, incident reporting, complaints, etc.).

Chair: Ian Green OBE

Chief Executive Officer: Simon Whitehouse

The ICB operates an open enquiry facility to engage on services that are eligible for choice, this can be engaged via this web page which will enable the ICB to share the appropriate service-related information. [Contracting and Procurement - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Integrated Care Board](#)

4. Any Right to Choose—specific documentation or annexes that prospective providers must complete (for example, provider accreditation forms, contract schedules or RtC addenda).

The policy is available online and includes reference to NHSE complaint process. [Our publications and policies - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent](#)

5. The next steps and expected timescales if you are open to new RtC providers in this area.

The policy is available online and includes reference to NHSE complaint process. [Our publications and policies - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent](#)

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 ICB FOI team by emailing; staffsstokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter within 40 working days of the initial response.

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