

Our Ref: VP/TLR/FOI/0825/1400

21st August 2025

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI/0825/1400

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 and thank you for your email dated 18th August clarifying the request. We can now confirm that 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. The ICBs response is provided below in blue text.

You have requested:

Hi please can you inform me of your service provision for transgender patients where the GP is refusing to support the care of patients seen by NHS specialist services.

Additional information provided by yourself:

my concern is that many patients are being turned away by their GP who is refusing to prescribe for them even when under NHS gender services.

This puts the patients at risk of a deterioration in their mental health and potentially of suicide. I'm already aware of one patient who has been turned away by the practice with no provision of access to their medication.

I there wondered if the ICB was aware of this issue and what they are doing to support patients. Other area are trying to find solutions

Patients may try to register with sympathetic practices others may be forced to buy drugs off the internet.

My question is about how many practices are declining prescriptions to trans patients and what is the ICB doing to support this vulnerable group of patients before there is a suicide

We do not hold information on how many GPs are declining to issue these prescriptions.

At the moment we do not have any special arrangements in place. We rely on GPs to support patients who are undergoing treatment with gender affirming drugs especially if they are requested by NHS specialist services. We have had instances where some GPs have refused prescribing these products as they feel that they do not have the competence to do so.

We are considering setting up a prescribing and monitoring local enhanced service for gender affirming drugs. This may help somewhat but because we cannot mandate all GPs to sign up to the service. Ideally we would like a local enhanced service that could be provided but we have not had those conversations with all interested parties as yet and would need to identify funding.

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

Vasileia Pitarokoili
Head of Governance