

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI-11-166

11th November 2022

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

Sent by email

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Dear Sir/Madam

FOI-11-166

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request dated the 9th November 2022. Please be advised that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Board (ICB) does not hold data on behalf of the Integrated Care System (ICS). The ICS is not a statutory body and therefore not subject to FOIA.

Requests made of our ICB named as ICS will only be answered on behalf of our own ICB-only element and a Section 21 exemption applied for any remaining, non-ICB elements about the ICS. With those being redirected to other, relevant Statutory Partner FOI contact points (as Public Authorities under FOIA).

Please see our responses in blue below

I am a 4th year Pharmacy student from the University of Bath undertaking a project on the availability of liquid antidepressant formulations. I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request regarding the availability or restrictions on liquid formulation antidepressants within your ICS.

We have reviewed the available information on the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent formulary website and there does not seem to be any information about restrictions on the use of liquid formulations.

Please could you let me know the following with reference to the primary care prescribing of antidepressants for depression and/or anxiety:

- 1. Are there any internal documents or guidelines that restrict the prescribing of liquid antidepressants?**

Nothing specific. Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Formularies are in place to guide all prescribing not just liquid antidepressants:

<https://www.northstaffordshirejointformulary.nhs.uk/default.asp>

<https://www.southstaffordshirejointformulary.nhs.uk/default.asp>

- 2. Do you have any guidance for prescribers regarding tapering of antidepressants? If so, could you provide a copy of the relevant documents?**

Chair: Prem Singh

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

Please see attached documents.

- 3. Do you use any prescribing decision support software, or other tools such as PMR system searches, which identify prescribing of liquid antidepressants and recommend a switch to other formulations?**

The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB uses the following prescribing decision support software:

Optimise RX
Medoptimise

- 4. Do you engage in any proactive correspondence with practices to encourage other formulations over liquid formulations?**

These messages are directed through the software noted above.

- 5. I have also found no mention of Escitalopram, Fluvoxamine and Duloxetine on the formulary. Am I right to assume this will be a non-formulary item even though it is not listed on the non-formulary list?**

The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Formularies list all medications that have been reviewed for inclusion and where a drug is not listed as non-formulary it is assumed to be non-formulary.

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'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
Deputy Director of Corporate Governance,
Compliance & Data Protection/Data Protection