

30 August 2018

Dear

Re: Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

**Ref no: CAS-03739-M0H7D2-CC – NHS Cannock Chase CCG
CAS-03739-M0H7D2-ES – NHS East Staffordshire CCG
CAS-03739-M0H7D2-NS – NHS North Staffordshire CCG
CAS-03739-M0H7D2-SAS – NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG
CAS-03739-M0H7D2-SE – NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG
CAS-03739-M0H7D2-SOT – NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13 August 2018 making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information which may be held by NHS Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS East Staffordshire CCG, NHS North Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG.

You requested the following information and our response is detailed below:

1. Do same sex couples qualify for NHS fertility treatment on initial presentation (assuming they meet all other IVF funding requirements asked of heterosexual couples e.g. not having an existing child)?
2. If they do not automatically qualify, what steps do they have to take before they do qualify? For example, do they need to self-fund a certain amount of treatments, before proceeding to NHS IVF if these are unsuccessful?
3. If they do automatically qualify, what are they entitled to? For example, do they get one round of IUI or IVF on the NHS or more than that?

I appreciate that funding within a CCG is constantly changing, and that any documentation of these details will not indefinitely reflect the funding situation. However I wish to gather the information about the situation as it currently is.

IVF policies for each CCG defines that treatment aims to manage a medical reason for infertility. The policies are publicly available at the following web links:

- **NHS Cannock Chase CCG:** <http://www.cannockchaseccg.nhs.uk/our-services/assisted-conception-services>
- **NHS East Staffordshire CCG:** <https://eaststaffsccg.nhs.uk/publications/policies/clinical/in-vitro-fertilisation-ivf-and-intracytoplasmic-sperm-injection-icsi-policy>

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Cannock Chase CCG Chair: Dr Mo Huda **East Staffordshire CCG Chair:** Dr Charles Pidsley **North Staffordshire CCG Chair:** Dr Alison Bradley **Stoke on Trent CCG Chair:** Dr Ruth Chambers **Stafford and Surrounds CCG Chair:** Dr Paddy Hannigan **South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG Chair:** Dr Shammy Noor **Accountable Officer:** Marcus Warnes

- **NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG:** <http://www.staffordsurroundsccg.nhs.uk/our-services2/assisted-conception-services>
- **NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG:** <https://sesandspccg.nhs.uk/our-services/assisted-conception-services>
- **NHS North Staffordshire CCG / NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG:** <https://www.stokeccg.nhs.uk/stoke-governance/policies/commissioning-policies/916-nscg-infertility-and-assisted-reproduction-commissioning-policy/file>

Same sex couples are entitled to investigation and management of infertility, in line with other eligibility criteria (e.g. age, parental status). For female same sex couples, assisted conception will be available in line with the requirements of heterosexual couples. Assisted conception is not available to male same sex couples.

Right of appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response, or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact the FOI team to discuss.

However, if you remain dissatisfied with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request a review of our decision, this can be formally requested in writing and must be within a reasonable period of time (two calendar months) from the date this response was issued

Initially you should write to the freedom of information officer, either by email on MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net or post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you feel you have been wrongly denied access to the information requested. The freedom of information team will make sure your request is investigated by an independent reviewer who was not involved in the original consideration of your request and a written response will be provided within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Cannock Chase CCG, NHS East Staffordshire CCG, NHS North Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF / www.ico.gov.uk

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and Surrounds CCG, NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG please submit a request in writing stating:

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- Full details of the document/information required for re-use sufficient for NHS Cannock Chase CCG, NHS East Staffordshire CCG, NHS North Staffordshire CCG, NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG, NHS Stoke-on-Trent CCG and NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG to identify it.
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<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1151/datasets-foi-guidance.pdf>

Yours sincerely



Sally Young
Director of Corporate Services, Governance and Communications

NHS Cannock Chase CCG
NHS East Staffordshire CCG
NHS North Staffordshire CCG
NHS South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG
NHS Stafford and Surrounds CCG
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