

Our Ref: FOI 983

26 September 2016

Jeff Matthews

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Dear Mr Matthews

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request dated 27 August 2016, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Question 1 – Please provide a copy of your Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) proposal and also details of the consultation process.

Somerset is developing a STP along with 43 other footprint areas across England. The plan will set out how services can be transformed and the health of the population sustained or improved in the face of rising demand and limited financial resources. The plan will be published in line with national guidance when the work to develop it has made more progress. There will be an opportunity for patients and public engagement ahead of consultation on any major changes that might be proposed.

Section 22 – Information intended for future publication

Under section 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can confirm that the Somerset CCG holds the requested information. However, the STP and associated consultation process for the Somerset footprint is in draft form. The information is currently being developed and once finalised and approved, the CCG has the intention to publish the STP, although no final national timescale has been set for publication. As such, this element of the information you have requested is considered exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Public Interest Test

Somerset CCG recognises that there is a public interest in ensuring people are informed of the plans and strategies of the CCG. Somerset CCG remains committed to the principles of openness and transparency on which the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is founded. Nevertheless, it could be misleading to the public to disclose information which is in draft and incomplete. I can confirm the Somerset CCG intend for the STP to be finalised, approved and published in the future and to give an opportunity for patient and public engagement ahead of consultation on any major changes that might be proposed.

Appeal

If you have any further queries, require any clarification, or have any concerns regarding the way in which your request has been handled and/or to request an internal review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you remain dissatisfied, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner under section 50 of the Act. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
Freedom of Information Team