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10 May 2024

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3982-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 5 April 2024 and clarification received on 16 April 2024.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

On what date were you made aware that Craig Harris previously had a close working relationship with Dr Shikha Pitalia of SSP Health (during his time as Managing Director of the Healthier Wigan Partnership) ? I believe it was the 22nd of February 2023 when Kevin Lavery, seemingly surprised, asked a steering group member to email him the proof of this after said group member challenged him on it at one of their meetings by showing him a photograph of Mr Harris and Dr Pitalia together at an SSP Health event (held on the 26th of September 2019).

The section of the minutes is requested from 22 February 2023 and the steering group was , Withnell health centre steering group, obviously the date "he became aware" isn't held information unless he has that written down somewhere specifically, so we'd be clear we can only provide a copy of that section of the minutes.

Mr Lavery had been made aware prior to 22 February 2023 that Dr Pitalia was known to Professor Harris in a professional capacity. SSP Health were awarded a contract to provide primary care services on behalf of the Healthier Wigan Partnership of which Professor Harris was Managing Director. Both Dr Pitalia and Professor Harris were members of the Healthier Wigan Partnership Board. There is no conflict of interest.

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 this by contacting the FOI team by email at MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net or by post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

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 CCGs 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

Kirsty Hollis
Associate Director & Business Partner to the Chief Executive

On behalf of Kevin Lavery
ICB Chief Executive