

Please contact: Access to Information
Team
Email: MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net
Direct tel: 01782 916875

9 February 2024

Dear

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3764-LSC

Thank you for your request dated 16 January 2024.

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

Please find our response to your questions below:

1. Please find below questions about GP practices in your area and visa sponsor status. GP practices need to have obtained a visa sponsorship license if they want to recruit a GP from outside the UK who needs a skilled worker visa.

How many GP practices in your ICB area are licensed visa sponsors currently?

57

2. How many GP practices in your ICB area were registered visa sponsors 12 months ago?

Unknown, Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB do not hold this information.

3. Is your ICB actively seeking to increase the number of GP practices in the area that are visa sponsors? If so, how?

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB is aware that a large proportion of the GP trainees in LSC require a Visa Sponsorship to remain working in the UK once qualified and actively promotes this message to Primary Care Medical providers. Both Place Teams and Workforce Leads promote the need for providers to have a Visa Sponsorship Licence to recruit GPs from outside of the UK when discussing GP recruitment with Practices and PCN colleagues. The ICB also provides access to a Lawyer to support practices to complete their applications.

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 40 working days 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 Leyland 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

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery
ICB Chief Executive**