

Reference: FOI.ICB-2627/137

Subject: ICB Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) Arrangements and Governance

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the Integrated Care Board's (ICB) implementation, governance, and oversight of Freedom to Speak Up (FTSU) arrangements, following the transition of responsibilities on 1st July 2026. Specifically, please provide the following information:	
1. Strategy and Implementation Plans a. Copies of any specific strategy, transition plan, or policy document approved by the Board regarding how the ICB will execute its new system-level oversight responsibilities for FTSU.	a. The ICBs current policy can be found here: Freedom to speak up policy - BNSSG Healthier Together New Cluster transition plan and FTSU arrangements to be developed, which will take place prior to formal merger (Apr 2027)
2. Local Guardian Arrangements and Mapping a. A list of all Freedom to Speak Up Guardians directly employed or commissioned by the ICB to cover the ICB's own staff and those within NHS Trusts in your nominated operating area. b. Confirmation of how the ICB is ensuring that primary care providers (GP practices, dental practices, community pharmacies, and optometry providers)	a. The Executive guardian is David Jarrett, Chief Strategic Commissioning Officer. Alongside the Head of Quality and Clinical Excellence b. The ICB does not hold this information, other NHS organisations would need to be contacted individually. Primary Care providers will have their own responsibilities regarding designated FTSU Guardians.

within your Integrated Care System (ICS) footprint have access to a designated FTSU Guardian (e.g., via a centralized hub, a commissioned service, or individual practice arrangements).	
3. Governance and Board-Level Accountability a. The name and job title of the Executive Director and the Non-Executive Director (NED) who have been given formal board-level accountability for FTSU within the ICB. b. Copies of the section of minutes, papers, or briefing notes from any ICB Board or Committee meetings held between 1st January 2026 and the date of this response where the dissolution of the National Guardian's Office or the ICB's new FTSU responsibilities were discussed.	a. Executive Director level accountability for FTSU rests with: Jo Hicks, Chief Transformation, People and Organisational Development Officer Non-Executive Director level accountability for FTSU rests with: Ayesha Janjua b. No discussions have taken place at Board or People Committee (the latter committee has been suspended during the period of ICB organisational change and will restart Q3 2026/27).
4. Budget and Resourcing a. The total financial budget allocated by the ICB for FTSU arrangements (including Guardian salaries, ring-fenced time, and training) for the 2026/27 financial year.	There is no dedicated FTSU budget, FTSU guardians perform their duties alongside their substantive roles, given the relatively small workforce and numbers of FTSU issues raised, substantive employed and dedicated posts are not deemed necessary.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 30 July 2026 and has been approved for release by Sophie-Elizabeth Atkins, Associate Director of People and HR for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.