

Our Ref: NG/RM/24177
Date: 23rd May 2024

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
Bellringer Road
Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 20th May 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

1. Have cameras or surveillance equipment been installed in patients' bedrooms in the hospital(s)? **Yes**

If the response to the aforementioned question is affirmative,

2. Please specify the hospital(s) which have the monitoring system and cameras in patients' bedrooms. **Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and Ward 6 at Harplands Hospital**
3. What is the duration for which the footage captured by the bedroom cameras is stored? At what point is the footage scheduled for deletion?
The footage can only be stored if requested within a 24-hour period, if not requested it is automatically deleted.
4. Has there been any occurrence of unauthorised access to or release of camera footage? Or has there been any accidental leakage? **No**
5. Have patients formally requested the deletion of camera footage relating to them? If so, have their requests been acted upon? **No**
6. Does the camera footage encompass the recording of all potential activities conducted by patients in hospital bedrooms, including but not limited to intimate or genital exercise or auto manipulation? **No**
7. What measures have been implemented to protect the privacy and dignity of patients, and to prevent any possible leakage of recorded footage?
There is a consent flow chart in operation which means that if a patient does not consent to the vision-based patient monitoring then the system is turned off.
8. Do you have a plan to remove cameras from patients' bedrooms?
No, however this is just a pilot, and the Trust is in the process of evaluating the pilot on the 2 wards detailed above.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance



Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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