Our Ref: NG/RM/24357
Date: 8th November 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 15th October 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:
I am conducting some research on waitlist validation and data linkage in the NHS. I am particularly interested in the different techniques and solutions used for these purposes.
I was hoping you'd be able to answer the following question under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. How is waitlist validation carried out in your Trusts? Please select one of the following options: Manually / Semi-automated / Automated.
   a. If your response was semi-automated or automated, which tools do you use? Please specify the types of tools or software used.
2. How many FTEs currently work on waitlist validation and what band are they? Please specify the number per band.
3. How has your FTE count working on waitlist validation increased in the past 2-3 years? Please provide an estimate if you do not have the exact number.
4. In the past 12 months, approximately how long has the waitlist validation process taken? Please provide an estimate if you do not have the exact number.
5. What data quality issues have been identified the most frequently as part of the waitlist validation process? Please select those that apply from the list below:
   a. Decision to admit but no waiting list entry
   b. Missing waiting list or pathway information (e.g. due date, intended procedure)
   c. Patients on an admitted waiting list without an active RTT (Referral to Treatment Pathway) clock
   d. Past TCI (To Come In) dates
   e. Potential duplicates
   f. Other - please specify

We have interpreted the questions above to be aimed at Acute Trusts who have national Referral to Treatment (RTT) measures. As we are a Mental Health Trust we believe that these questions not applicable to North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust.

Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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6. What are your current approaches to linking data? Please select one of the following options: Manually or semi-automated / Automated. **Automated**
7. What is the proportion of data linkage that is manual and automated? Please provide an estimate if you do not have the exact number.
    a. If automated, what tools are used? Please provide the name of the tools.
    b. If manual, what tools are used e.g. R, data bricks? Please provide the name of the tools.
    100% of data is automated from Lorenzo via our data warehouse and reported using SSRS or Power BI
8. Currently, is the data linking process cumbersome? **No**
9. And does it take away from people's everyday role? **No. It is part of the roles within the Performance Team (Analyst and Developer)**

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

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