

Our Ref: NG/RM/25072  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Nicola Griffiths  
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North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust  
Lawton House  
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ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

## Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025. 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 writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding your Trust's processes to reduce medication waste. Please may you provide me with an answer to the following:

1. Does your Trust have a formal policy on medicines waste reduction? **No, this is included in the Trust Waste Policy.**
2. Have any sustainability or environmental impact assessments been conducted regarding your Trust's pharmaceutical waste. **No**
  - i. If yes, please provide a brief summary of key findings. **N/A**
3. Do you currently employ any staff specifically to support medicines waste? **No**
  - i. If yes, how many full-time equivalents do you employ? **N/A**
4. How often does your organisation report on the management of waste (including cost) at Board level? **This is reported on the ERIC return.**
  - i. Annually/ Quarterly/ Monthly/ Never/ Other (please state)
5. For each of the hospitals in your Trust, what is the value of medication you have had to waste in the last 2 financial years? This the value of medication that was the property of the hospital at the point it was wasted, i.e. the cost of medication that expired before it could be used.

**Pharmaceutical waste from clinical areas is put into yellow or blue bins and can include empty glass bottles, contaminated blister packs etc. The cost of destruction is by weight not drug cost. Often this could also include medicines brought in by patients that aren't fit for use. Medicines waste in pharmacy is also by weight and includes other things (as above).**

**Value of medication that was the property of the hospital at the point it was wasted, i.e. the cost of medication that expired before it could be used- £7,966.22.**

6. For each hospital in your Trust, what has been your total drug spend over the past two financial years?

- **2023/24 £1,582,226**
- **2024/24 M1-10- £934,636**

7. For the last two financial years combined what is the drug that you have wasted the most of, and what was the total cost?

**The most wasted product was Naloxone 2mg/2ml syringes where we wasted 27 syringes at a total cost of £571.54.**

**The reason for this wastage was due to the fact that the NHS contract was changed to this product. We ordered this and found that the product didn't contain a needle so couldn't be used by our community teams in an emergency.**

8. Have any sustainability or environmental impact assessments been conducted regarding your Trust's pharmaceutical waste. **No**

- i. If yes, please provide a brief summary of key findings. **N/A**

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**