

Our Ref: NG/RM/25222  
Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

## Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 14<sup>th</sup> June 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 conducting analysis on current services and plans for service improvement in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

I would be grateful if you could answer the questions below for all relevant activity within the Trust.

1. I would be grateful if you could send the Trust's most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease including implementation of lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood-based Biomarker testing. Please include planning documents that cover the entire Trust and specific department plans, such as neurology, psychiatry, care of the elderly, pathology or memory clinic teams.

**There are no current planning documents within the Trust for the above. We are working collaboratively with other providers across the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in terms of regional response with NHS England for the new treatments and diagnostic interventions.**

2. How many patients were diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease (*ICD-10 codes = G30, G30.1, G30.8, G30.9, F00, F00.1, F00.2 or F00.9*) in your Trust in the last 12-month period for which data are available? **480**
3. How many patients were diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment and / or Mild Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease (*ICD-10 codes = G31.84, G30.1, or MMSE scores = 21 to 24*) in your Trust in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

|  | Number of patients |
|--|--------------------|
| Mild cognitive impairment ( <i>ICD-10 = G31.84</i> ) | <b>203</b>         |

Chair: Janet Dawson  
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Early onset Alzheimer's Disease (ICD-10 = G30.1)                          | <b>Currently not routinely recorded separate to an Alzheimer's Dementia diagnosis</b> |
| Mild cognitive impairment (Mini-mental State Examination MMSE = 21 to 24) | <b>N/A</b>  |
| Mild cognitive impairment (other sources of definition)                   | <b>N/A</b>  |

4. Where, if at all, does the Trust carry out lumbar punctures (cerebrospinal fluid) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

|   | Yes / No                        |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Lumbar punctures carried out within the Trust itself                      | <b>No</b>                       |
| Lumbar punctures referred elsewhere and carried out external to the Trust | <b>No</b>                       |
| Trust does not carry out lumbar punctures to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease | <b>No lumbar punctures used</b> |

5. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations to which the Trust refers patients for lumbar punctures in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.  
**N/A**

6. What is the average waiting time for a patient to get an appointment for a lumbar puncture to test for a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease? **N/A**

7. How many lumbar punctures to test for Alzheimer's Disease took place in the last 3-month period for which data are available? **0**

8. How many Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to test for Alzheimer's Disease were conducted in the last 3-month period for which data are available? **0**

9. Where, if at all, does the Trust carry out Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

|   | Yes / No   |
|---|------------|
| Pathology laboratory within the Trust                         | <b>N/A</b> |
| Pathology laboratory external to the Trust                    | <b>N/A</b> |
| Trust does not test for BBBMs to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease | <b>Yes</b> |

10. Please provide a list of the full names of other Trusts or other organisations, to which the Trust refers Blood-based Biomarker tests from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for pathology in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease. **N/A**

11. What is the average waiting time for pathology results to come back from Blood-based Biomarker tests? **N/A**

12. To what extent are there plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease?

|  | Yes / No  |
|--|---|
| Implementation of plans has started              | <b>Yes</b>  |
| A plan exists and implementation has not started | <b>No</b>   |
| A plan is being developed                        | <b>No</b>   |
| There is no plan                                 | <b>Engaged in research opportunities and always involved in national improvements</b>   |
| Other – please state                             | <b>Service is always developing taking in to account new developments with diagnosis and treatments<br/>Improvement of diagnostic pathway through increased availability of diagnostic hubs, which means timely diagnosis</b> |

13. Are the plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease related to:

|                               | Yes / No  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Cognitive assessment services | <b>N/A</b>  |
| Biomarker services            | <b>No, however engaged in research opportunities/studies which are exploring this further</b> |
| None / neither                | <b>No</b>   |

14. Which of the following services does the Trust have in place in preparation for increased service delivery for Alzheimer's Disease?

|                                | Related to administration of lumbar punctures<br>Yes / No | Related to Blood-based Biomarker testing<br>Yes / No |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Budget</b>                  | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>People</b>                  | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>Training</b>                | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>  |
| <b>Clinic space / capacity</b> | <b>No</b>   | <b>Yes</b>   |
| <b>Governance arrangements</b> | <b>No</b>   | <b>No</b>  |

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**