

Our Ref: NG/RM/25257  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Nicola Griffiths  
Deputy Director of Governance  
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust  
Lawton House  
Bellringer Road  
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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 21<sup>st</sup> July 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 from North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. Please may you provide me with the information for the following:

1. Testing and Management Protocols for Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)
  - 1.1. Does your Trust have a clinical protocol for testing and managing patients for Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)?  
If yes:
    - a) Is your CRE testing protocol primarily molecular based?
    - b) If not, please specify which type of testing protocol is followed.
  - 1.2. Which diagnostic companies or providers does your Trust procure molecular testing kits for services for CRE from?
2. Testing Protocols for Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile) Infection
  - 2.1. Does your Trust have a formal protocol for testing patients for Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile) infection?  
If yes:
    - a) Is your C. difficile testing protocol molecular based?
    - b) If not, please specify the testing method used.
  - 2.2. Which diagnostic companies or providers does your Trust procure molecular testing kits for services for C. difficile from?
3. Testing and Procurement for Tuberculosis (TB) Resistance
  - 3.1. What methods does your Trust use to test for tuberculosis (TB) resistance?

3.2. Which diagnostic companies or providers does your Trust procure molecular testing kits for services for TB resistance from?

**North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust is a Mental Health provider, pathology services are provided under a Service Level Agreement with University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM).**

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**