

Our Ref: NG/RM/25297
Date: 21st August 2025

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 19th August 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:

Please provide the following information:

1. Access to Testing Clinical Information Systems
 - What is the approval process by which an external organisation may apply or request to connect with the trust's test clinical systems of record. (e.g. EMR, EHR, PACS)
 - Which internal teams, roles, or committees are responsible for approving such a connection?
 - What steps are involved in obtaining the necessary permissions or agreements to establish such a connection?
 - What is the entry point for this process? e.g. email address or webform.
2. Access to Production Clinical Information Systems
 - What is the approval process by which an external organisation may apply or request to connect with the trust's production clinical systems of record. (e.g. EMR, EHR, PACS)
 - Which internal teams, roles, or committees are responsible for approving such a connection?
 - What steps are involved in obtaining the necessary permissions or agreements to establish such a connection?
 - What is the entry point for this process? e.g. email address or webform.

At this point we're not asking for information regarding the technical specifics of the trust's internal systems. We are only requesting information on the trust's approval and decision-making processes.

The Trust does not have a formal process specific to requests for external access to its clinical information systems. Any request of this nature would be considered under

existing Information Governance, Data Protection, and IT security procedures, which are applied case by case.

Responsibility for assessing such requests typically involves Information Governance, Digital, and Cyber Security teams, with escalation to senior management or relevant committees where appropriate.

There is no published entry point for such requests, as the Trust does not ordinarily permit external connections to clinical information systems without a defined contractual or statutory basis.

Accordingly, there are no formal policy documents or defined processes we can disclose in response to your request.

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