

Our Ref: NG/RM/25322
Date: 2nd October 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 6th September 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 under the Freedom of Information Act to request information regarding the use of simulation-based training within your Trust. Specifically, I would be grateful if you could provide the following details:

1. Does the Trust currently use simulation to train any staff groups (e.g., consultants, resident doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, etc.)? **Yes for physical health skills and dementia.**
2. If yes, what simulation methodologies are employed (e.g., role-play with actors, digital avatars, augmented reality, virtual reality, or other approaches)?
We use mannequins, limbs with simulated veins and pulses, and mannequin body parts depending on teaching activity. We also access the local university medical and nursing simulation suite. We utilise virtual reality for Dementia Training.
3. What were the initial setup costs for implementing simulation training?
No cost for using university simulation suite. Set up costs for Virtual Reality training: £1500 – headsets. Content developed in house – cost neutral. Mannequins, limbs, etc : circa £10k
4. What are the ongoing annual costs, if any, associated with maintaining and delivering simulation training? **Trainer employment costs – CIRCA £45K**
5. How many trainees did the Trust host in the last financial year (2024/2025) who were enrolled in training for a mental health–related profession? **837 total students**
 - **803 Nursing students.**
 - **34 AHP students.**

Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
www.combined.nhs.uk

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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