

Our Ref: NG/RM/25329  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 would like to request the following information from under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. The amount of money spent by the trust on legal cases (or law firms) defending it against whistleblowers, against claims of workplace discrimination, and defending it in employment disputes in the last five financial years.

Please can the data be broken down by each year for the last five financial years (2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25).

**Unfortunately, this information is not held in an easily accessible format, to supply this information would require a manual trawl of invoices held by the Trust as well as records held by external legal firms. We believe that the cost of collating the information in order to respond to your request would exceed the threshold of £450 as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit Fees) Regulations 2004. As a result, we are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000.**

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**