

Our Ref: NG/RM/25391
Date: 28th November 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 31st October 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 currently undertaking a research project on autistic children admitted as inpatients within Tier 4 mental health units.

- Please could you provide me with the number of admissions of autistic children at the Darwin Centre between 1st October 2024 and 1st October 2025?

By "number of admissions," I refer to the total number of individual admissions — meaning that if the same child was admitted more than once during this period, each admission should be counted separately.

By "admissions of autistic children," I refer specifically to those admitted solely because of their autism, and not due to any other mental health condition.

The Trust does hold this information but not a reportable format, to supply this information would require a manual trawl of patient's records to ascertain that the reason for admission is solely because of their autism. 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