

Our Ref: NG/RM/25110  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 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 25<sup>th</sup> March 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:**

#### Question 1

- Are plastic bin liners used on psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust? **No, unless specially requested to do so by the clinicians and this would have been risk assessed prior to implementing. Bin liners are used in non-clinical areas.**
- If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited? **Approx. 7 years ago**
- How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)? **0**
- How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)? **0**

#### Question 2

- Are other types of plastic bags (i.e. not bin liners) allowed into psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust? **Yes, on an individual risk assessed basis.**
- If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited? **N/A**
- How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Year	No of Incidents
2020	1
2021	1
2022	3
2023	1
2024	1

Chair: Janet Dawson  
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo

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- d. How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)? 0

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**