

Our Ref: NG/RM/25423
Date: 31st December 2025

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ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 2nd December 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information:

1. A list of all external suppliers, contractors, or partner organisations who currently fall within the remit of the NHS Data Security & Protection Toolkit (DSPT) for your organisation.

This includes any supplier that handles patient data, accesses NHS systems, or provides digital, software, cloud, data-processing, or cyber-security services requiring DSPT compliance.

The Trust does not hold a centrally maintained list of external suppliers, contractors, or partner organisations mapped specifically against the NHS Data Security & Protection Toolkit (DSPT).

While some suppliers may handle patient data, access NHS systems, or provide digital, software, cloud, data-processing, or cyber-security services, the Trust does not record or categorise suppliers by DSPT applicability in a way that would allow a definitive list to be provided.

2. A list of any new, incoming, or planned suppliers (contracted or due to go live within the next 12 months) who will fall within the DSPT remit for the same reasons.

The Trust does not hold a central record of planned or onboarding suppliers that are identified or classified by DSPT applicability.

Supplier onboarding and procurement activity is managed across multiple services, and DSPT relevance is considered on a case-by-case basis, rather than through a forward-looking consolidated register.

3. For each supplier identified in Q1 or Q2, please confirm (if recorded):
- Whether they are required to maintain a “Standards Met” DSPT submission
 - The date you last checked or verified their DSPT status (or expected verification date for new suppliers)

We are unable to provide a response as the Trust does not maintain:

- A list of DSPT-relevant suppliers, or
- A record of supplier DSPT status or verification dates.

DSPT assurance is addressed through:

- Contractual information governance requirements.
- Data Protection Impact Assessments where appropriate.
- Supplier assurance activity at the point of procurement or system onboarding.

However, these do not form a single DSPT supplier register.

4. Does your organisation maintain an internal register or log of DSPT-relevant suppliers (including planned or onboarding suppliers)? **No**
- If yes, please provide the relevant extract. **N/A**
 - If no, please confirm that no such register exists. **No such register exists.**

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