

Our Ref: NG/RM/25451
Date: 19th January 2026

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 19th 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:

Request for Information: I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding temporary worker usage for communications roles.

Definition of Scope: For the purposes of this request, "communications" refers to any function or team managed, hosted, or funded through the Trust's structures (including work performed for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), regional partnerships, or shared service models) that encompasses:

Internal or external communications functions.
Media relations or the Press Office.
Social media management and digital content.
Marketing and brand management (where these sit within the communications structure).

Definition of Personnel: For the purposes of this request, the term "agency" refers to all temporary or non-permanent staff, including those engaged via an external recruitment agency, a Managed Service Provider (MSP), or the Trust's internal "Staff Bank" where such an arrangement exists.

Timing and Cooperation: To ensure the data provided is accurate and aligned with your internal reporting cycles, I am happy to allow the necessary time for your teams to complete the December 2025 (Month 9) month-end close before running these reports. I recognise that the holiday period may impact administrative capacity and I seek a collaborative approach to ensure the provision of a complete and reconciled dataset.

Please provide the following data:

1. 2025/26 Actuals and Outturn Forecast
 - a. Provide the total number of days a temporary worker was employed via an agency or bank for the communications roles defined above from 1 April 2025 to the end

of the December 2025 (Month 9) reporting period. (If data is only held in hours, please provide the total hours and specify the standard working day length). **0**

- b. Provide the current projected year-end outturn for the total number of agency/bank days for these roles for the full 2025/26 financial year (ending 31 March 2026). **0**
- c. Provide a breakdown of these days by Agenda for Change (AfC) Band or job title.
N/A

2. 2026/27 Planned Requirements

- a. Provide the total number of days currently budgeted or forecasted for agency-provided or bank communications staff for the 2026/27 financial year. **None**
- b. Funding and Management Qualifier: This request explicitly includes all agency and bank requirements managed or funded through the Trust, regardless of whether the end-user is the Trust itself, an ICB, or a regional partnership. **N/A**
- c. Financial Qualifier: Note that I am requesting the currently held financial forecasts and draft budget allocations for 2026/27 as they exist at the time of this request. If these forecasts do not yet segment requirements by specific band, please provide the overall forecasted budget for temporary staffing within the communications function. **No budget allocated**

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