

Our Ref: NG/RM/2601
Date: 28th 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 13th January 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 be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, answers to the below questions:

1. For contracts held with external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services, please confirm:
 - The contract start and end dates
 - Whether the contract is block-funded, activity-based, or outcome-based
 - Whether payment is triggered by completed contacts, completed episodes of care, or other milestones
2. For each financial year from 2022/23 to 2024/25, please confirm the total expenditure paid to each of the external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services.
3. For the same period, please provide:
 - The total number of completed clinical contacts delivered by external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services and/or
 - The total number of completed treatment episodes (courses of care), broken down where available by Step 2 and Step 3
4. If held, please provide any internally reported or calculated figures showing:
 - Average cost per completed treatment episode
 - Average cost per completed clinical contact for services delivered by external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services

5. Please provide any board papers, performance reports, or internal evaluations which reference:
 - Recovery rates, reliable improvement, or waiting-time performance.
 - In relation to the cost or value for money of services delivered by external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services.
6. Please confirm whether external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services, costs were benchmarked against:
 - In-house NHS Talking Therapies provision
 - Other external providers
 - and if so, whether the supplier was assessed as lower-cost, comparable, or higher-cost.
7. Please confirm whether the contract with external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services, included:
 - Minimum activity volumes
 - Volume caps
 - Break clauses linked to activity or outcomes
8. Please list any contract variations, extensions, or price uplifts agreed with external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services, since contract award, including the reason (e.g. demand growth, workforce pressures).
9. Please confirm whether charges payable to external providers of Talking Therapies (formerly IAPT), engaged by you to deliver Talking Therapy services, included separate line items for:
 - Referral processing
 - Digital platform access
 - Administration or reporting
 - and if so, the value of these charges.
10. Please confirm whether the ICB/Trust anticipates:
 - Re-tendering
 - Extending
 - Expanding
 - NHS Talking Therapies capacity using external providers within the next 24 months.

As North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust is not the lead provider of the Staffordshire Talking Therapies contract we are unable to provide this information. This service is provided by Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT).

Should you wish to contact MPFT you will find information on how to do so here [Home :Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust](#)



Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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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