

Our Ref: NG/RM/26022  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026. 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, I am writing to request information relating to the use of medical locums at your Trust.

### Rate Card Compliance & Escalations

- a. Does the Trust operate in line with the West Midlands Regional Medical Rate Card for medical locums? **Yes**
- b. Has the Trust approved or used rate escalations above the West Midlands Regional Rate Card in the most recent financial year? **Yes**
- c. If yes, please provide:
  - The specialties where escalated rates were used. **Psychiatry**
  - The grade(s) affected (e.g. SHO, Registrar, Consultant). **Consultant**
  - Whether escalations were:
    - Temporary (e.g. patient safety / service gaps), or. **Temporary**
    - Ongoing / recurrent.

### Delivery Model: In-House vs Outsourced/ Managed Services

- a. How are medical locum services primarily delivered at the Trust?
  - In-house internal staffing/ bank team. **Medical staff is managed in-house**
  - Direct Engagement (DE) model used. **The Trust utilises DE for 100% of medical bookings.**
  - Outsourced to a Managed Service Provider (MSP) / managed vendor. **Retinue are used for the booking of medical locums, but the DE is processed in-house and on the Trust payroll.**
- b. If medical locum services are outsourced (in whole or in part), please confirm:
  - Name of the MSP / managed vendor. **Retinue**

- Scope of services provided (e.g. all medical locums or specific specialties). **All medical locums**
- Contract start date. **30/11/2024**
- Contract end date. **29/11/2026**
- Planned contract renewal or re-procurement date, if known. **Unknown**

Key Contact for Workforce Models & Cost Efficiencies

- a. Please provide the job title, department, and generic email address (no personal data required) of the individual or team responsible for:
  - Medical locum workforce strategy, and.
  - Reviewing cost efficiencies, savings opportunities, or alternative delivery models

**Medical Staffing Department.** [medicalstaffing@combined.nhs.uk](mailto:medicalstaffing@combined.nhs.uk)

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**