

Our Ref: NG/RM/26060
Date: 18th March 2026

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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 26th February 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:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act 2000. This FoI request is part of a research study conducted by the University of Manchester. Our study aims to investigate the availability of liaison psychiatry services for patients presenting with a condition called Functional Neurological Disorder (FND).

This current FoI request is to North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust. We understand that there are liaison psychiatry teams at the sites detailed below. These questions would be best answered by the liaison psychiatry department themselves as there may be differences in practice between teams.

Royal Stoke (University Hospitals of North Midlands) Mental Health Liaison Team

If there are any liaison psychiatry teams we have missed out, please send this FoI request onto them.

FoI questions:

1. Does the liaison psychiatry service accept referrals for patients diagnosed with suspected or confirmed Functional Neurological Disorder (FND)? **Yes**
2. Are there formal exclusion criteria that would prevent patients with FND from being assessed by liaison psychiatry? **No**
3. Are there inclusion criteria within FND? **No**
4. Where are patients with FND assessed?
 - a. Inpatient wards
 - b. Emergency departments
 - c. Outpatient settings

- d. A mixture, please detail: **Alle of the above**
 - e. Not assessed at all
-
5. Is there a standardised assessment tool you use for patients with suspected or confirmed FND? **No**
 6. Do you have a policy, guideline or dedicated pathway for patients with suspected or confirmed FND? **No**
 7. Between January 2024-December 2025, how many patients with a suspected or confirmed FND were referred to liaison psychiatry? * **Data not held**
 8. Between January 2024-December 2025, how many patients with a suspected or confirmed FND were accepted by liaison psychiatry? * **Data not held**
 9. If FND patients are not seen by the liaison psychiatry team, are they referred to other services for assessment of their mental health? **N/A**
 10. Does the liaison psychiatry unit provide training to its staff on FND? If yes, please specify. **There are some training packages offered, FY2 Drs have a 1 hour session each year, the team psychologist also delivered training to the MHLT team and at Internal medical training.**
 11. Is your liaison psychiatry service commissioned to see patients with FND? **Yes**

* *Alternative codes for FND: psychogenic, conversion, stress-induced, functional, pseudoseizure, dissociative, non-organic, psychosomatic, hysterical, psychological cause.*

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

Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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