

Our Ref: NG/RM/26089
Date: 25th March 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 22nd March 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:

Could I please request that when responding, if the name of your organisation is not in your email signature that additionally this is provided.

1. What is the name of your organisation? **North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust**
2. Within which Nation do you report (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)? **England.**
3. To which ICS/ ICB (or alternative) do you report / belong? (if this is in the process of changing please give the name of the new organisation as you will be of 1 May 2026)? **The Trust is part of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System (ICS) and reports to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB).**
This will remain the case from 1 May 2026 however it will be part of a "clustering" arrangement.
4. Does your senior leadership team have live access to updates regarding the Trust corporate plan? **No, beyond tools such as SharePoint and MSTeams there are no dedicated systems in use that fulfil these functions.**
5. Are you able to provide live reporting regarding shared projects/ risks to your local ICB/ ICS/ appropriate alternative body? **No, beyond tools such as SharePoint and MSTeams there are no dedicated systems in use that fulfil these functions.**

6. What is your latest NHS Digital Maturity Score? **The Trust does not hold the data for Digital Maturity Assessments; it's held by NHS England. They can be contacted via email at england.dma@nhs.net.**
7. What software do you use for the management of Projects? **The Trust uses a combination of Microsoft Planner and MS Teams/ SharePoint based project spaces for project management activities.**
8. Who is responsible for the overall management / reporting of projects? **Overall responsibility sits with the Trust's Transformation Management Office (TMO) within the Strategy Directorate.**
9. What software do you use for the management of corporate risks? **The Trust uses Ulysses for risk management, including corporate risks.**
10. Who is responsible for overall management / reporting of corporate risks to the board? **The Trust's Risk Management Team, under Corporate Governance, maintains the corporate risk register and reports through Governance and Committees to the Board.**
11. Is any part of the organisation currently using Microsoft project Online? **No. The Trust does not actively use Microsoft Project Online (the legacy PPM platform).**
12. If yes to the previous questions, which teams/ departments? **N/A**
13. What is your organisations policy in regards to AI & AI Solutions? **The Trust follows national NHS guidance on safe, ethical, and compliant use of Artificial Intelligence.**
Key principles include:
 - **AI use must comply with UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018, and NHS information governance standards.**
 - **AI deployments require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) and, where relevant, a clinical safety assessment (DCB 0129/0160).**
 - **Staff are required to use approved, secure AI tools only.**
 - **Procurement of AI systems follows Trust governance processes, including Information Governance, Cyber Security, Digital Clinical Safety, and Procurement reviews.**
 - **A formal Trust AI Policy is in development to align with NHS England's AI assurance and risk management framework.**

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