

Our Ref: NG/RM/26138
Date: 17th June 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 May 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, I would like to request the following information:

1. Is this NHS Trust utilizing an AI software within its Talking Therapy Programme? In what capacity? **No**
2. The number of patients who have been treated under a scheme of therapy that involves a communication exchange including the contribution of an Artificial Intelligence system in 2025 and 2026. **0**
3. Please break down the number of users into the following classes: i) age, ii) ethnicity, iii) nationality, iv) gender. **N/A**
4. If the numbers are less than 5, please merge the figures for 2025 and 2026. **N/A**
5. The name of the company providing the AI software(s) mentioned in 1 and 2. Please also tell me the name of the system (ex. ChatGPT, Claude, etc). **N/A**
6. The value of the contract between the AI company and the NHS Trust. **N/A**
7. Investigations, reports and other similar documents that look into:
 - a. The clinical effectiveness of therapy undergone by patients using the therapy mentioned in 1 and 2 above. **N/A**
 - b. Any potential risks from the therapy mentioned in 1 and 2 above. **N/A**
8. The current waiting list for an appointment with a therapist within your NHS Talking Therapy service.

The information for the waiting times for both teams is as follows:

For the North team

- 84% waited less than 6 weeks (target 75%) for treatment in the service (assessment wait time).
- 100% of people waited less than 18 weeks (target 100%) for treatment in the service (assessment wait time).
- 21% of people waited over 90 days (target <10%) to continue their course of treatment (wait time from assessment to treatment).

For the Stoke Team

- 82% of people waited less than 6 weeks (target 75%) for treatment in the service.
- 100% of people waited less than 18 weeks (target 100%) for treatment in the service.
- 5% of people wait over 90 days (target <10%) to continue their course of treatment.

9. The current waiting list for an appointment with a psychiatrist. **N/A. The service does not have a psychiatrist.**

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