

Our Ref: NG/RM/26152
Date: 1st July 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 4th June 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 would like to request the following information relating to the supply disruption affecting prescription co-codamol, particularly 30mg/500mg tablets and capsules.

1. Current Stock and Usage
 - What is the current stock level of co-codamol in 30mg/ 500mg tablets held by your Trust (by number of tablets/ capsules and number of packs)? **267 tabs = 2 x 100 and 67**
 - What is your Trust's monthly dispensing or usage volume of co-codamol 30mg/500mg since March 2025 to present? **95**
2. Supply Disruption and Patient Impact
 - Has your Trust experienced any disruption to the supply of co-codamol 30mg/500mg in the past three years (2022–2025)? If yes, please provide: the date(s) the disruption was first encountered, the approximate duration, and which formulations were affected. **No**
 - Has the supply disruption required your Trust to switch patients to alternative analgesics? If yes, please state which alternatives were prescribed and the number of patients affected. **No**
 - Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months? **No**
1. Stockpiling and Contingency
 - Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for co-codamol 30mg/500mg? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold. **No**
 - Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months? **N/A**
 - If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels? **N/A**

Chair: Janet Dawson
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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I would like to request the following information relating to the supply and availability of aspirin (all licensed doses used therapeutically) within your Trust.

2. Current Stock and Usage

- What is the current stock level of aspirin held by your Trust (by number of tablets and number of packs)? **Dispersible 300mg tabs (32 pk) x 28, Dispersible 75mg tabs x 347, EC 75mg tabs x 141**
- What is your Trust's monthly dispensing or usage volume of aspirin since May 2025 to present? **Usage of Dispersible 300mg = 7 x 32, dispersible 75mg = 84.9 x 28, EC 75mg = 10.11 x 56 pack.**

3. Supply Disruption and Patient Impact

- Has your Trust experienced any disruption to the supply of aspirin in the past three years (2022–2025)? If yes, please provide: the date(s) the disruption was first encountered, the approximate duration, and which formulations were affected. **No**
- Has the supply disruption required your Trust to switch patients to alternative medications? If yes, please state which alternatives were prescribed and the number of patients affected. **No**
- Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months? **No**

4. Stockpiling and Contingency

- Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for aspirin? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold. **No**
- Has your Trust increased stock levels of aspirin as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months? **No**
- If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels? **N/A**

I would like to request the following information relating to the supply and availability of wound care consumables within your Trust, specifically swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs.

In relation to the following questions (7-9):

The Trust does hold this information; however, it is not available in a reportable format. As a Mental Health Trust, we do not operate a centralised procurement system for wound care consumables, these items are ordered on an ad hoc basis, with individual clinical areas and wards responsible for ordering their own supplies.

To provide the requested information would require a manual review of records. We estimate that the cost of locating, retrieving, and collating this information would exceed the £450 limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Consequently, we are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

5. Current Stock and Usage

- What is the current stock level of swabs, cotton wool, and bandages held by your Trust? Please break it down by product category where possible (e.g. sterile gauze swabs, non-sterile gauze swabs, x-ray detectable swabs, tubular bandages, non-woven products).
- What is your Trust's monthly usage or consumption of the above products by volume since May 2025 to present?

6. Supply Disruption Impact

- Has the supply disruption from any of these products resulted in any procedures being delayed, cancelled, or modified? If yes, please provide the number of affected procedures by month from January 2023 to the present.
- Has your Trust raised any formal incident reports internally or with NHS England/ NHS Supply Chain as a result of this supply issue? If yes, how many in the past 12 months?

7. Stockpiling and Contingency

- Does your Trust hold a formal contingency or safety stock policy for swabs (sterile and non-sterile), cotton wool, bandages (including tubular and elasticated varieties), and non-woven balls and swabs? If yes, please provide the minimum stock threshold.
- Has your Trust increased stock levels of surgical sutures as a precautionary measure in the past 12 months?
- If yes, by how many units did you increase stock levels?

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