

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 26 March 2025

**Public Authority:** Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

**Address:** Duncan Macmillan House  
Porchester Road  
Mapperley  
Nottingham  
NG3 6AA

#### **1. Request:**

The complainant requested the following information from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust on 25 January 2025:

"I would be grateful for information on your mental health Assertive Outreach services, either in your trust or any of your predecessor organisations.

Please advise when Assertive Outreach services were first introduced in Nottinghamshire, and what was the original service specification.

Please provide a copy of the original documents setting out what the Assertive Outreach service should comprise.

For example,

- Would a standalone specialist team be provided
- Staff establishment, skill mix, caseload limits
- Hours of operation including any weekend or out of hours operation

- Whether the team policy was to provide defined MDT/ specialty skill sets within team
- Did the team have direct admitting rights to its own inpatient beds
- Did the team cover its own crisis work for continuity of care
- Service entry criteria for patients
- Intended flexibility as regards to how patients would be engaged and where they could be seen
- Any "no discharge" policy.

If the service specification for the trust's Assertive Outreach services has changed over the years, please advise what the changes were and provide copies of the replacement service specification documents.

Please describe your current Assertive Outreach services in terms of where staff are located (standalone specialist teams or Outreach staff attached to generic community mental health teams), the staff establishment and skill mix, and whether there are caseload limits for your Assertive Outreach workers. If so, what are the current caseload limits. Please apprise me of whether your Assertive Outreach services are led by specialist consultant psychiatrists assigned only to the Assertive Outreach services, or whether Assertive Outreach workers fall within teams led by generalists. Please provide the relevant documents which describe the nature and scale of your current Assertive Outreach services, including the relevant operational policy and any routine activity data generated specifically regarding the Assertive Outreach patient caseload from the last three years, if the latter is available. If available, please include in this activity data the numbers of patients and also the numbers of contacts.

Please indicate what clinical audits have taken place of the trust's Assertive Outreach services and when these audits were undertaken.

## **2. Commissioner's Decision:**

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days.

Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

### **3. Steps:**

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

### **4. Right of Appeal:**

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF**