

Witness Name: Nichola Sanderson

Statement No: WITN0452001

Dated: 18 May 2026

## THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY

---

### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF NICHOLA SANDERSON

---

I, Nichola Sanderson, will say as follows: -

#### INTRODUCTION

1. I am the Director of Nursing and Professions at Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust ("the Trust").
2. I qualified as a Registered Mental Health Nurse in 2002, in Nursing and Midwifery.
3. My role includes providing advice to the Trust on matters relating to Nursing, Allied Health Professions, Social Workers, and psychological services and will be the Executive lead for the following:
  - Nursing, Allied Health Professionals, Social Workers, and Psychological Professions.

- Service User and Carer involvement including PALS and complaints management.
- Safeguarding of adults and children, PREVENT and MAPPA.
- Infection, Prevention and Control (including the role of Director of Infection, Prevention and Control (DIPC)).
- Professional development and training for Nursing, Allied Health Professions and Psychological staff.
- Clinical governance and patient safety, including clinical safety.
- Relationship with Care Quality Commission including registration, compliance with standards and organisational rating.
- Patient safety.
- Risk management.
- Investigation of Serious Incidents and management of external reviews.
- Safer staffing.
- The management of formal complaints and PALS.
- Clinical Policies, ensuring that they are up-to-date and adhered to.

4. This witness statement is made to assist the Nottingham Inquiry (the "Inquiry") with matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 21 April 2026, and it relates to information sharing arrangements at the Trust.

## INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENTS

5. The Trust's provision of Mental Health and Learning Disability services often requires us to share information with partner organisations. At the discretion of the Trust and the partner organisation we may enter into an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) to assist with this process.
  
6. The Trust has centrally stored guidance for staff members in regard to ISAs on our internal Trust internet page. This guidance explains that an ISA is a document which defines what information will be shared, between which organisations, and for what purpose. It also states that an ISA may contain instructions on how to carry out the sharing, include points of contact and detail both the information delivery methods and the mechanisms for monitoring the agreement itself. This guidance also explains when an ISA should be drafted, and when one is not needed.
  
7. The Trust Data Protection Officer is our lead on ISAs and can assist with preparing one. Our Information and Governance Team can also assist with the development of ISAs, as referenced at paragraph 1.11 of the attached Confidentiality Code of Conduct (WITN0452002).

## INFORMATION SHARING WITH THE POLICE

8. I am aware that Dr Nuwan Dissanayaka, a Consultant Psychiatrist from the Trust gave oral evidence to the Inquiry on 15 April 2026 and during his evidence he

referred to an ISA which he subsequently shared with the Inquiry's legal team.

This is a standard template that the Trust uses (WITN0412015).

9. The ISA shared by Dr Dissanayaka is available through the document library of current ISAs on our internal Trust internet page. It is available for use throughout the organisation where there has been an identified need to request information from the local police force, West Yorkshire Police.
10. This particular ISA's use would be recorded within individual patient records, and frequency of use varies across the organisation. Its use is dependent upon individual service users' risk profile at any given time, along with the nature of service involved, and the needs of any risk assessments required.
11. This may result in periods during which a higher volume of requests are made, and other periods during which no requests are made. There is no consistent or predictable pattern, as requests are driven by individual need and considerations of proportionality. Based on available records, 280 responses to requests were received from West Yorkshire Police between 1 January 2016 and 1 May 2026.
12. This ISA with West Yorkshire Police has been in place for approximately 7 years. This was originally a police-led document, co-authored with a former Trust employee. It is currently being reviewed and updated by both the Trust and West Yorkshire Police.
13. A guide to the completion of the above ISA is attached at WITN0452003. Just to clarify, whilst this document states that when the Trust requests information from

the police and the form is returned from the police it is then added to PARIS, this is no longer correct. PARIS was our electronic patient record system, and it was replaced within our Trust about 6 years ago with a new electronic patient record system called Care Director. The current process is that the Assertive Outreach Team (AOT) manager completes these forms and sends them to the police. The forms are then completed by the police and then returned back to the AOT manager who uploads them on to Care Director where they are available to be viewed by all clinicians that treat the patient.

14. Further guidance on dealing with requests for information by the police and other disclosures to official bodies is included in Appendix C of the Code of Conduct (see Exhibit A).

#### INFORMATION SHARING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

15. The Trust regularly shares information with external agencies on an impromptu basis on request, with requests routed via the medical records team, assessed and authorised for disclosure by the Trust's Data Protection Officer or the Caldicott Guardian in alignment with Trust policy.
16. In terms of policies and guidance relevant to the sharing of information with agencies other than the police, the Trust has a Medical Access Request Procedure policy (Document Reference Number IG-0008) which I attach as WITN0452004. This policy sets out the procedure under which service users and other agencies may request access to medical records, and the processing of those requests by the Trust. As noted above, there is also guidance in the Code of Conduct.

17. The Trust is developing a similar ISA to the one used for the police with our local fire service, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. It does not have recorded ISAs with the local authority, educational establishments, probation or the prison service.

18. I hope this statement assists the Inquiry in answering those questions set out in the Rule 9 Request.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe the content of this statement to be true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed:

**GRO-B**

Dated: 18 May 2026

Witness Name: Nichola Sanderson

Statement No: WITN0452001

Dated: 18 May 2026

**THE NOTTINGHAM INQUIRY**

---

**INDEX to First Witness Statement of Nichola Sanderson**

---

<b>No.</b>	<b>Inquiry URN</b>	<b>Document Description</b>
1	WITN0452002	Confidentiality Code of Conduct, dated 27.1.26.
2	WITN0412015	Template Information Request Form of Leeds and York Partnership NHS and West Yorkshire Police.
3	WITN0452003	A Guide to the Completion of ISA Information Request Form (Appendix B)
4	WITN0452004	Medical Records Access Request Procedure 25.6.24