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NHS
Sherwood Forest Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

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20th October 2026

[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference:
Hydrotherapy Pool Closure

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. The reasons for the planned closure and the confirmed closure date?	The intention to close the pool is based on a recommendation which set out a range of clinical, operational and financial factors – including a careful review of the clinical evidence and efficacy – which demonstrated that the therapy service could continue to provide high-quality care using a range of therapy techniques. Once the engagement process has been completed, a final decision will be made by the Trust. We currently expect this to be made in November 2026.			
2. When, how and by whom the decision was made?	On 19 August 2026, the Trust Management Team agreed its intent to close the hydrotherapy pool at King's Mill Hospital, subject to a programme of engagement with affected patients, colleagues and stakeholders.			
3. Why current patients were not informed or consulted before the decision was reached?	The process for this kind of service change requires Trust Management Team approval to enable a process of engagement to commence.			
4. What clinical and patient-impact assessments were undertaken?	Full Quality impact assessment of patient safety, patient experience, clinical effectiveness, workforce, well led, sustainable, equitable, performance and strategic objectives and assessment of impact of Equality duties. This was undertaken as part of the scoping exercise.			
5. Whether an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed?	Yes, this forms part of the quality impact assessment (see question 4).			

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6. Whether a comprehensive assessment of the longer-term financial impact has been conducted?	The quality impact assessment undertaken has taken in to account the potential financial impact on patients.			
7. How the additional demand on land-based physiotherapy services has been calculated?	Through assumptions based on current hydrotherapy demand.			
8. What additional staffing, appointments and treatment capacity will be provided?	We do not anticipate any increase in staffing due to adaptation of current delivery, including new exercise groups designed to support service delivery.			
9. What consultation took place with patients, clinicians and other relevant stakeholders?	Reasonable and proportionate engagement is underway with affected patients, colleagues and other stakeholders to ensure we fully understand their perspectives and experiences. We are clear that the invaluable insights it is already providing will support us to make informed decisions about the services we provide. These specific proposals are also being discussed with the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Nottinghamshire Health Scrutiny Committee, as part of established arrangements. A small number of directly affected Trust colleagues are being formally consulted and supported through the Trust's established workforce transformation policy.			
10. What equivalent local hydrotherapy provision will be available?	The Trust plans to offer a range of therapy techniques in place of hydrotherapy. We are aware of a number of facilities in our local communities that provide hydrotherapy to the public. We plan to			

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	share details of these with patients over the coming weeks as part of their Therapy journey, where required.			
11. What will happen to privately funded sessions currently taking place in the King's Mill Hospital pool; and how continuity of treatment will be protected for existing patients?	Privately funded sessions would no longer take place at King's Mill and patients would instead be signposted to private providers in the area. All existing patients with long-term ongoing care would continue to be reviewed by their clinician and all suitable treatment options would be considered. See answer to question 10.			

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I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. 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: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the Open Government Licence (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

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