

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-774

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 14th February 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding anaesthesia associates

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 Do you have Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) working at UHNM?**

**If no:**

- Do you have any Trainee AAs currently?
- Do you plan to employ them if they successfully pass their course?
- What course are they undertaking?
- What preparations have you made to employ them?

If you do not currently employ any trainee AAs, please provide information on the progress of the recruitment of TAAs from the job advert on NHS Jobs in October 2023: <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9205-23-1679?keyword=nursing&language=&page=131>

**If yes:**

- On 1st February 2024, how many AAs did the Trust employ?
- How long have you had AAs working in your Trust?
- What agenda for change band are your AAs employed on?
- Do your AAs work unsocial hours (before 8am, after 8pm, weekends, bank holidays)?
- Which training courses do you accept as qualification for working as an AA at your Trust?
- How many AAs does one consultant anaesthetist supervise at any one time?
- Please provide a copy of the AA job description.
- If in existence (including in draft form), please provide a copy of the AA scope of practice.
- Through what legal mechanism do your AAs administer medication? Please provide copies of any associated paperwork/forms/drug charts in use by AAs and any policies/guidelines/procedures concerning this.
- Please provide the minutes of any relevant meetings in which the decision to allow AAs to administer medication via the legal mechanism chosen was agreed.

- Please provide the Trust's or any department risk assessment for employing AAs.
- How many incidents have been reported on your incident reporting system in which errors have occurred in anaesthesia administration by an AA throughout the time period you have had them working in your Trust? Please provide a breakdown of these incidents by calendar year, by type of error and by level of harm.

A1 See below:

Do you have any Trainee AAs currently? –	None in post currently however we have recently appointed x4 AAs for an April 2024 start (date TBC)
• Do you plan to employ them if they successfully pass their course?	Discussions ongoing regarding routes to employment..
• What course are they undertaking?	Anaesthesia and Peri-Operative Sciences PgDip provided by Lancaster University.
• What preparations have you made to employ them?	Ongoing discussions with Lancaster Uni to finalise plans for oncoming cohort. Supervisors allocated and based in department and trained by Lancaster University
If you do not currently employ any trainee AAs, please provide information on the progress of the recruitment of TAAs from the job advert on NHS Jobs in October 2023: <a href="https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9205-23-1679?keyword=nursing&amp;language=&amp;page=131">https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9205-23-1679?keyword=nursing&amp;language=&amp;page=131</a>	See above detail addressing progress of job advert.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

***UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.***

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



**Rachel Montinaro**  
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records