



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-841

Date: 4th April 2024

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 6th March 2024 (received into our office 7th March) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Pas.

On 8th March 2024 we contacted you via email with:
To continue with your request we require clarification on what timeframe you are referring to (Q5)

On the same day you replied via email with:
*'Further to your request for clarification
Please note that in my original request there's a "typo" and you've highlighted that in yellow in 5.
Below.*

5.below should read:

'5. Please provide numbers of employed Physician Associates per HRG (Health Resource Group/Division) with the identified HRG/Division for each fiscal year 2011/2012 to date broken down annually.'

*Thank you for pointing the error out to me.
I hope my clarification is now sufficient.'*

As of 1st 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 My FOI request is as follows below and please adhere to statutory time frames as to acknowledging this my FOI request and delivering the required Information. If there are problems identified by UHNM NHS Trust in supplying me with the information please contact me immediately so that I'm kept fully informed as to the delivery of my FOI Request

1. Does UHNM NHS Trust employ Physician Associates?

A1 I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding this question, but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link:

<http://www.uhn.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

FOI ref 721-2324 January and 540-2324 November 2023

Q2 If so when (fiscal year) did UHNM NHS Trust or in its previous iteration commence employing Physician Associates?

A2 UHNM inherited them when we integrated with Mid Staffs in 2015, hence no data exists prior to 2015.

Q3 If UHNM NHS does employ Physician Associates how many in total are employed this fiscal year 2023/24?

A3 As answer 1

Q4 Re 3 above what are the WTE (Whole Time Equivalent) numbers of employed Physician Associates?

A4 3 WTE

Q5 Please provide numbers of employed Physician Associates per HRG (Health Resource Group/Division) with the identified HRG/Division for each fiscal year 201/12 to date broken done annually.

A5 As per your above clarification: UHNM inherited them when we integrated with Mid Staffs in 2015, hence no data exists prior to 2015

Q6 Please provide the process as to how UHNM NHS Trust analyses the efficacy re quality and safety of the employment of Physician Associates and the service Physician Associates provide to patient care.

A6 All Physician Associates are subject to the existing quality assurance processes within the areas they are employed.

Q7 Re 6 above when (year) did UHNM NHS Trust define and implement a policy as to the monitoring of Physician Associates it employs or may employ?

A7 There is no such policy currently in place as per question 6 Physician Associates are subject to quality assurance processes

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

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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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records