



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-082

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

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

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 1st May 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Physician 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 I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the use of Physician Associates (PAs) for covering doctor shifts within your hospital/Trust. Specifically, I would like to know:**

**Over the last 6 months, how many doctor shifts\*, categorised by department/specialty, have been covered by Physician Associates? Please include all types of shifts (day, night, weekend).**

**\*Doctor shifts would include shifts covered by foundation doctors (FY1/FY2), locally employed doctors, core/specialist trainees and registrars. They may be referred to as 'F1 shifts', 'SHO shifts' or 'Registrar shifts', but I would advise liaising with your medical staffing team to clarify the exact terminology used by your organisation.**

**A1 Physician Associates (PAs) work as part of the planned roster, as part of their own personal job plan.**

1 x Physician Associate - Total of 63-day shifts all worked in Royal Stoke A&E. They cover their own shifts, as part of their planned rostered activities.

\*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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours,



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