

**Information Governance Department**

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Ref: FOI2014/2320  
Date Received: 8th October 2014  
Response Due: 5th November 2014

15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear ,

## INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

We are now pleased to respond to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked:

***In August 2014 the government announced the launch of a recruitment drive to hire more doctors' assistants to ease pressure on the NHS. The physician associates will have two years of intensive training instead of the seven completed by doctors, and will provide support in the diagnosis and management of patients in hospitals.***

***I would like information on how many Physician Associates your Trust have been recruited since April 2013 and what target of recruits for physician associates are planned.***

The Trust does not employ any Physician Associates at present and there are no current plans to recruit any.

I hope you find this information useful, however if you are not entirely satisfied with this response please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on 01257 256335. If we do not hear from you within 28 days we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



**Andrew Foster**  
**Chief Executive**

Chairman: Les Higgins  
Chief Executive: Andrew Foster CBE

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Wrightington Hospital, Hall Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9EP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Chairman: Les Higgins

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