

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/9571

Date Received: 26th January 2024

Response Due: 23rd February 2024

Date: 22nd February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 26th January 2024, 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.

In your request you asked:

1) How many Physician Associates are currently employed by your organisation?

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2) Please provide copies of any policies regarding physician associates in your organisation. For example, policies regarding the scope of practice, clinical procedures, governance, supervision and appraisal processes for physician associates.

The Trust do not have policies specifically relating to Physician Associates. All Physician Associates abide to all hospital policies and procedures. Scope of practice of Physician Associates is determined by the supervising clinician and listed within the specific Physician Associates job plan. This is based on training and competency of the Physician Associates and the availability of the Supervising Clinician. Appraisals for Physician Associates follow the usual hospital appraisal policy of a once or twice-yearly face to face meeting with the supervising clinician as well as submission of an online CPD portfolio directly to the Faculty of Physician Associates.

3) Please provide details of any patient safety incidents (reported via Datix or other internal patient safety reporting systems) where the clinician involved was a Physician Associate. Where possible, please include a breakdown of these incidents by year, severity and categorisation (e.g., department, nature of the incident, patient harm, outcome, organisational response etc).

Datix does not hold this information.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a trailing line, followed by a small blue dot.

Juliette Tait
Chief People Officer

PLEASE NOTE:

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, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111