

Our Ref: NG/RM/24077
Date: 18th March 2024

Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
Lawton House
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Trentham
ST4 8HH

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 29th February 2024. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

Requested information:

This request will only be relevant if your trust hires/has hired physician associates (PAs).

- 1) In several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:
 - a) The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate.
 - b) The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions.
 - c) The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e., patients given medication.
 - d) The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e., patients not given medications.
 - e) Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?
 - f) Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions.
 - g) Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g., PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?
 - h) What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?
- 2) Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:
 - a) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?
 - b) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e., the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA)?

There is no qualified PAs employed by the Trust currently.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Dr Buki Adeyemo, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Griffiths
Deputy Director of Governance



Chairman: David Rogers
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo
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