

Our Ref: NG/rm /FOI.362.23  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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

Reception: 0300 123 1535

Dear

### Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### **Requested information:**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the period August 2022 - August 2023 regarding the employment and related details of Physician Associates (PAs) within your trust. I believe this information is essential for public interest, transparency, and to better understand the role of PAs within the healthcare system. Please provide the information in digital media, specifically PDF, Excel, or Word documents.

To facilitate the processing of my request, please provide the following details:

#### **1. Number of Physician Associates (PAs) Employed:**

- Please provide the total number of Physician Associates employed in your trust for the stated time period. **0**

#### **2. Average Annual Salary of PAs:**

- Please disclose the average annual salary, or salary range, for Physician Associates employed in your trust for the stated time period, and a breakdown of how many PAs are on each Agenda for Change pay band. **N/A**

#### **3. Average Weekly Working Hours:**

- Specify the average number of hours worked per week by Physician Associates employed at your trust for the stated time period, and the average number of hours worked outside of the 9am-5pm time range. **N/A**

#### **4. Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Provide a detailed description of the job duties and responsibilities of Physician Associates within your trust for the stated time period. **N/A**

#### **5. Supervision and Accessibility:**

- Clarify what profession and grade are supervising Physician Associates and whether PAs at your trust are able to attend work if their supervising clinician is not immediately contactable by them. **N/A**

#### 6. Role in Filling Rota Gaps:

- Indicate whether Physician Associates at your trust are permitted to fill rota gaps left by GMC Registered Medical Doctors. If so, specify the grade of doctors they are authorised to cover for. **N/A**

#### 7. Hourly Rates for Bank Shifts:

- Please provide the hourly rate range paid to Physician Associates working bank shifts at your trust for the stated time period. Break down this range according to years of service if applicable. **N/A**

#### 8. Prospective Employment:

- Please disclose the number of Physician Associates your trust plans to employ in the next 5 years, or business cases out for employing PAs in the next 5 years. **N/A**

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**



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Chairman: David Rogers  
Chief Executive: Dr Buki Adeyemo  
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