

Trust Headquarters  
 Russell's Hall Hospital  
 Dudley  
 West Midlands  
 DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-022024-000600

**Date:** 29/02/2024

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Request**

*I am writing to request information regarding your use of Physician Associates.*

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

**Response**

<p>1) How many Physician Associates are currently employed by your organisation?</p>	<p>To see a previous response please go to the Freedom of Information request disclosure log on the Trust website <a href="https://www.dgft.nhs.uk/disclosure-log">Disclosure log - The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (dgft.nhs.uk)</a> and type in the search box the following reference numbers:</p> <p>000382,000462 &amp; 000498</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Trust does not have a specific policy for this staff group.</p>

<p>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).</p>	<p>We are unable to answer this as we do not hold the information you have requested in a reportable format.</p> <p><i>When information is not in a reportable format</i> <i>The ICO guidance clearly states "FOIA only applies to information that a public authority already holds in recorded form at the time of a request. If you don't hold a particular piece of information that someone has asked for, you don't have to create it".</i></p>
---	---

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**