

Ref. No: 1024
Date: 18/06/24
Subject: Physician Associates

REQUEST

- 1. The number of SHO doctor shifts (FY2 / ST1 / ST2 / CT1 / CT2) covered by physician associates at the Trust between December 2023 - May 2024.**
- 2. Each time a physician associate has covered a SHO doctor shift, please provide the date and unit where the shift took place.**
- 3. The number of physician associates employed by the Trust.**

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

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0

3. The number of physician associates employed by the Trust.

Job Role	Area of Work	No. Employees
Physician Associate	A&E	10
	General Surgery	<5
	Paediatrics	<5
	Rheumatology	<5

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.