Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/30131

23 November 2023

Physician Associates and Anaesthesia Associates

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. **The current number of physician associates currently employed in the Trust.**

   As at 30/10/2023 there were 13 Physician Associates employed within Belfast Trust.

2. **The current number of anaesthesia associates currently employed in the Trust.**

   As at 30/10/2023 there were 3 Anaesthesia Associates employed within Belfast Trust.

3. **A breakdown of the areas where physician associates are currently employed in the Trust by hospital and department.**

Department	Hospital	No. of Physician Associates Employed as at 30/10/23
Elderly Programme Of Care	Belfast City Hospital	1
Elderly Programme Of Care	Royal Victoria Hospital	1
Fractures and Orthopaedics	Royal Victoria Hospital	2
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital	2
Mental Health - Hospital	Mater Hospital	1
Oncology	Belfast City Hospital	3
Paediatric Service – Hospital	Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children	1
Accident and Emergency Service	Royal Victoria Hospital	1
Rheumatology and Rehabilitation	Musgrave Park Hospital	1

23 November 2023

4. A breakdown of the areas where anaesthesia associates are currently employed in the Trust by hospital and department.

Department	Hospital	No. of Anaesthesia Associates employed as at 30/10/23
Allergy Clinic	Royal Victoria Hospital	1
Theatres	Royal Victoria Hospital	2

5. The current policies of the Trust applicable to the role of physician associates with a particular focus on their supervision, drug prescribing, and ordering of ionising radiation.

Not yet permitted under GMC Regulation in Northern Ireland.

6. The current policies of the Trust applicable to the role of anaesthesia associates with a particular focus on their supervision, drug prescribing, and ordering of ionising radiation.

Anaesthesia Associates work under the direct supervision of a Consultant Anaesthetist. Drug prescribing and ordering of ionising radiation are not currently permitted under GMC Regulation in Northern Ireland. These clinical activities are performed by anaesthetists who are medically qualified.

7. Any Trust policy or planning indicating future recruitment of physician associates.

One current live recruitment process for Band 7 Physician Associate. Regional recruitment on an annual basis – Trust's intake is subject to funding on an annual basis.

8. Any Trust policy or planning indicating future recruitment of anaesthesia associates.

None currently in place.