

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6369

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
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Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

13 November 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Physician Associates.

You asked:

- 1. How many Physician Associates are currently working in your trust?
(Please can you include their pay banding and department)*
- 2. How many Physician Associate vacancies are currently available? (Please can you include their pay banding and department)*
- 3. How many Physician Associates are you planning to employ?*
- 4. Please may you disclose if there are currently any business cases being drawn up to try to employ physician associates, and if so please can you send as much detail as possible regarding this.*
- 5. Have there been any rejected or failed business cases to employ physician associates and why wasn't it accepted?*
- 6. If physician associates are employed in your trust, how do their staff satisfaction surveys compare to other staff members, particularly doctors?*

Trust response:

1. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust currently has seven Physician Associates all of whom are Band 7. Further detailed information will not be released as this may lead to the identification of the individual staff member.

The Trust considers the additional details requested exempt under Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 40(2) (personal information) as it relates to the personal information of employees. These members of staff are not of sufficient senior level where there is reasonable expectation that this information would be released into the public domain.

The Trust follows guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office on the disclosure of personal data including direct contact details.

2. 8 (3 are currently pending finalisation/checks) 5 are actively being advertised.

3. 8

4. No future pending Business Cases.

5. None

6. The national staff survey does not provide a breakdown at that level to demonstrate this.