

Date: Friday, 01st March 2024  
Our Ref: MB/SH FOI 6201

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**Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 6201**

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 29th February 2024.

Your request was as follows:

Dear The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust,

This request will only be relevant if your trust hires/has hired physician associates (PAs).

1) In several physician associates (PAs) have erroneously prescribed medications to patients. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

- a) The earliest and latest date a prescription was made by a physician associate?
- b) The total number of physician associates who have made unauthorised prescriptions?
- c) The total number of prescriptions made by PAs that have been acted on, i.e. patients given medication?
- d) The total number of prescription requests made by PAs that were not acted on, i.e. patients not given medications?
- e) Please list all controlled medications and cytotoxic drugs prescribed by physician associates, and the total number of occasions on which they were prescribed?
- f) Please give the number of patients who came to harm as a result of PAs making any unauthorised prescriptions?
- g) Please explain how it was possible for PAs to prescribe medication at your trust (e.g. PAs accidentally given prescribing functionality)?
- h) What steps have you taken to rectify this issue, including any penalties for the physician associates involved?

I can confirm the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust do not employ any Physician Associates.



2) Several trusts have reported situations in which their physician associates (PAs) have erroneously ordered ionising radiation. If this has happened at your trust, please provide the following information:

a) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation?

b) Total number of incidents in which PAs made requests for ionising radiation, and these requests were acted on (i.e. the patient received the scan with ionising radiation as requested by the PA)?

N/A

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

### Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk) where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at [www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm)

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. 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 the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

**Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 6201 in any future communications.**

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 by:

Post: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

*Mike Burns*

**Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information**