

FOI Ref: 26/101

9th February 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

I am requesting the following information regarding the employment and deployment of Physician Associates (PAs) in your Trust's Emergency Department(s):

This is not a role we have had or currently have in our Emergency Departments.

1. Pre-Leng Review Employment (before July 2025)

- a) Did your Trust employ Physician Associates in Emergency Department(s) prior to July 2025?**
- b) If yes, how many PA posts (FTE) were there in ED as of June 2025?**
- c) What clinical activities and responsibilities did PAs undertake in ED during this period?**

Not applicable.

2. Current PA Deployment

- a) How many PA posts (FTE) are currently deployed in Emergency Department(s)?**
- b) For any PAs previously working in ED who are no longer in those roles:**
 - i. How many have been redeployed to other departments? Please specify which departments/specialties**
 - ii. How many posts have been made redundant or not renewed?**
 - iii. What were the dates of any redeployments or redundancies?**

Not applicable.

3. Changes to PA Roles Post-Leng Review

- a) How have the clinical activities and responsibilities of PAs working in ED changed since July 2025?
- b) What restrictions or modifications have been placed on PA practice in ED?

Not applicable.

4. Impact Assessment and Wait Times

- a) Prior to making any changes, did your Trust conduct any impact assessment regarding PA deployment in ED? If yes, please provide a copy or summary of findings.
- b) Prior to making these changes, did your Trust consult with or refer to documentation from the General Medical Council (GMC), Care Quality Commission (CQC), United Medical Associate Professionals (UMAPs), or the College of Medical Associate Professionals (CMAPs)?
- c) What was the average wait time in ED for the periods:
 - i. April-June 2025 (pre-Leng Review)
 - ii. October-December 2025 (post-Leng Review)
- d) Has your Trust identified any correlation between changes to PA deployment and ED performance metrics?

Not applicable.

5. Compliance with Professional Guidance

- a) Were changes to PA deployment in ED made following guidance from the Royal College of Emergency Medicine?
- b) Please provide copies of any internal policies, directives, or communications regarding PA deployment in ED issued since July 2025.

Not applicable.

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm