

20th August 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 writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the employment, deployment, and governance of physician associates (PAs) working across your trust. Our request covers all clinical settings in which PAs are deployed.

Please note, if your trust only has PAs working in emergency departments, I have already obtained responses to questions 1-4 through a prior FOI - please therefore exclude these questions from the request. However, if your trust has PAs working in departments other than emergency departments, please collate all relevant information for all the below questions.

1. Pre-Leng PA deployment

- a. **How many physician associates (PA) posts (FTE) were employed by your trust as of June 2025? Please provide a breakdown by department, specialty, or clinical setting.**

Department/Specialty/Clinical Setting	Number
Frailty	3
Oncology	2
Stroke Medicine	1

- b. **For each department or setting in which PAs were working, please describe the clinical activities and responsibilities they undertook.**

Frailty

Assisting post-take ward rounds and associated tasks, comprehensive geriatric assessments, assisting with discharge letters, and clinical skills as competent to do so.

Oncology

Outpatient clinic-based role, directly supervised by a consultant, undertaking follow up of patients with cancer.

Stroke Medicine

Ward rounds and associated tasks, assisting with discharge letters, clinical skills as competent to do so and assisting in thrombolysis calls.

Please note all roles have a nominated consultant supervisor.

2. Post-Leng PA deployment

- a. How many PA posts (FTE) are currently employed by your trust? Please provide a breakdown by department, specialty, or clinical setting.

Department/Specialty/Clinical Setting	Number
Frailty	3
Oncology	2
Stroke Medicine	1

- b. For any PAs previously working in a clinical setting who are no longer in those roles since July 2025, please provide:

- The number redeployed to other departments or settings.
- The number of posts made redundant, not renewed, or subject to a material change in contract since July 2025.
- Whether a formal organisational change or redundancy consultation process was followed, and if so its outcome.

Not applicable.

- c. Were PAs consulted before any changes to their roles, contracts, or working arrangements were implemented? If yes, please describe the nature and format of that consultation.

Not applicable.

3. Changes to PA deployment

- a. For each department or clinical setting in which PAs work, please describe what changes, if any, have been made to their clinical activities, responsibilities, or scope of practice since July 2025.

None; the only change made was to the job title (Physician Associates are now called Physician Assistants).

- b. What restrictions or modifications have been placed on PA practice in each setting since July 2025?

None.

- c. Please provide copies of any internal policies, directives or guidance documents regarding PA deployment or scope of practice issued to clinical staff or PA staff since July 2025.

Not applicable.

4. Impact assessment and consultation

- a. Prior to making any changes to PA deployment or scope of practice following the Leng Review, did your trust conduct a formal impact assessment? If yes, please provide a copy or summary of findings. If no, please explain why not.

Not applicable.

- b. Following implementation of any changes, has your trust conducted any retrospective review of the impact of those changes on clinical operations, patient care, or workforce? If yes, please provide a copy or summary of findings.

Not applicable.

- c. Prior to or following any changes, did your trust consult with or refer to documentation from any of the following organisations?

- General Medical Council (GMC)
- Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- United Medical Associate Professionals (UMAPs)
- College of Medical Associate Professionals (CMAPs)
- Relevant medical royal colleges, including but not limited to the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, Royal College of Physicians, and Royal College of Surgeons
- NHS England or the DHSC

Not applicable.

- d. Were PAs employed by your trust invited to contribute to any internal review, working group, or governance process relating to their deployment or scope of practice since July 2025?

Not applicable.

5. Incidents and reports

- a. How many serious incidents, never events, or patient safety incidents in which a PA was the primary clinician were recorded by your trust in each of the following periods:

- October 2024 to June 2025
- August 2025 to April 2026

Zero.

- b. How many formal patient complaints relating to PA practice were received by your trust in each of those periods?

Zero.

6. Workforce costs

- a. What was the total expenditure on locum and bank medical staff in departments where PAs are deployed in the periods October 2024 to June 2025 and August 2025 to April 2026 respectively?

Clarification was sought with regard to your definition of Locum Staff; i.e. do you mean 'Agency' and confirmation was received as follows:

Yes, agency staff.

Please see the attached document - 'FOI 26-361 - Question 6a'.

- b. If your trust has identified any direct costs arising specifically from changes to PA deployment, please provide details.

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

	October 2024 to June 2025			August 2025 to April 2026		
Specialties	Agency	Bank	Total	Agency	Bank	Total
Elderly Care	£144,475.48	£137,821.13	£282,296.61	£20,641.45	£90,531.29	£111,172.74
Oncology		£540.00	£540.00			
Stroke Medicine		£134,021.66	£134,021.66	£48,126.49	£121,565.04	£169,691.53