

Title

Associate Staffing numbers

Reference Number: RDF2305-24

Date of Response: 23/02/2024

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. Please may you provide me with:

Please see trust response below. Please note: The information is based on information at the end of each of the financial year held in ESR (the Trust's Electronic staff record system).

Information requested before 2016 is not held in a reportable format. The Freedom of Information Act allows the public to ask for copies of information held. This information is not held in documentation within the Trust.

1. *The number of physician associates employed by your NHS trust, broken down by financial year, since 2010.*

2016/17 = * < 5

2017/18 = 10

2018/19 = 12

2019/20 = 14

2020/21 = 16

2021/22 = 22

2022/23 = 33

2. *The number of nursing associates employed by your NHS trust, broken down by financial year, since 2010.*

2016/17 = 0

2017/18 = 0

2018/19 = 10

2019/20 = 20

2020/21 = 28

2021/22 = 60

2022/23 = 77

3. *The number of anesthesia associates employed by your NHS trust, broken down by financial year, since 2010.*

Please note. The response below is for AfC support roles as requested. These are not figures for Associate Specialists which is different (a recognised grade of doctor).

2016/17 = 0
2017/18 = 0
2018/19 = 0
2019/20 = 0
2020/21 = 0
2021/22 = 0
2022/23 = 0

*<5 Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act

Please note* - where activity is 5 or less than 5, the Trust is unable to provide the exact information. We consider the data exempt on the following grounds:

The Trust considers that disclosure of the information risks identifying individuals. The reason for this is that the number of staff for which this applies is very low. This and the fact that the data requested relates to the RDUH NHS Trust only and therefore relates to staff in a specific location (rather than covering a larger geographical area), increases the risk of identification or self-identification.

The Trust's view is that s.40(2) is applicable because disclosure of information which could lead to an individual being identified would be a breach of their rights under the Data Protection Act Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1.