

## Physician Associate & Anaesthesia Associate Serious Incident Reports

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Reference Number: RDF2180-23

Date of Response: 12/02/24

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

*Excluding serious incident reports into self-harming, disruptive, abusive and/or aggressive patient behaviour - and also excluding reports into pressure sores and falls - please provide me with **summaries of all Serious Incident (SI) reports** (sometimes called 'never event investigation reports', 'patient safety incident investigation' reports and/or 'route cause analysis investigation reports') completed in by your Trust in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 which include at least one of the following words or phrases:*

- *physician associate*
- *anaesthesia associate*
- *anaesthetic assistant*
- *physician assistant*
- *PA*
- *AA*

*Please ensure each summary includes the following information:*

- *Date of incident*
- *A description of the incident, including the job titles of staff involved*
- *Problems and root causes identified during the investigation. Be specific about staffing issues, e.g. if short staffed state staff roles and numbers were on shift, or if an error occurred state the job titles of those involved in this error.*
- *Actions and/or recommendations from the investigation. Be specific, if staff require further training, state which staff, e.g. 'FY2 doctors' or 'physician associates', and what the training involves.*

*You may wish to use optical character recognition to quickly identify reports including the above words/phrases. This can be done in seconds using, for example, Adobe PDF OCR software.*

*In the unlikely event that a large number of your SI reports within this timeframe contain these words or phrases, please simply supply me with summaries of the five most serious reports which meet this criteria. Use your Trust's own criteria to grade seriousness, e.g. never events and unexplained or unexpected deaths will likely be most serious, followed by incidents causing severe harm, then moderate harm etc. It is therefore not acceptable to employ S12 in response to my request.*

Answer: Our current incident process does not allow a search for person involvement by staff type. Our Trust records all incidents by harm, however incidents can be reported anonymously, and staff roles or job titles are not mandatory fields. The incident reporting system and reports do not allow us to search for the words or phrases you have requested, as staff role, staff type or job title are often not present for the reporter or persons involved in an incident.

The FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) does not place a duty on a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held in a reportable format.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

To obtain the information requested for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 would require the manual download and search of individual records held on current and legacy systems (legacy data denotes pre-June 2022 and is held within two separate Trust systems). To identify, extract and review SI's since June 2022 (18 months) on the current system it has been estimated would take one individual at least three working days for all incident records and then require further time and resource to extract incident details.

Therefore, to carry out the work to meet your request would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Trust data on Never Events is published nationally via NHS England's Never Event data: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/never-events-data/>