

## Information Governance

Medical Directorate  
NHS Grampian  
Rosehill House  
Foresterhill Site  
Cornhill Road  
Aberdeen  
AB25 2ZG



BY EMAIL  
Susan Sollazzi  
[request-1153402-  
c56d5c6a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:c56d5c6a@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date 11 September 2024  
Our Ref FOI/2024/705  
Enquiries to Information Governance Team  
Extension 51319  
Direct Line 01224 551319  
Email [gram.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.foi@nhs.scot)

Dear Ms Sollazzi

### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

I refer to your e-mail dated 31 July 2024, requesting:

*Concern has been raised about a Physician Associate performing neurosurgical operations on children, acting as the first Assistant, for which they are unqualified.*

*Please advise how widespread is the practice of deploying PAs in doctors' roles within your NHS Trust, whether in surgical or medical settings. Please provide statistics in terms of doctor shifts filled by PAs since January 2024.*

I can now respond as follows:

**Concern has been raised about a Physician Associate performing neurosurgical operations on children, acting as the first Assistant, for which they are unqualified.**

**Please advise how widespread is the practice of deploying PAs in doctors' roles within your NHS Trust, whether in surgical or medical settings. Please provide statistics in terms of doctor shifts filled by PAs since January 2024.**

Physicians Associates do not replace Doctors and are not being deployed in doctor's roles. Physician Associates (PAs) work within the scope of their own professional policies which are available externally of NHS Grampian and can be found here:

<https://www.fparcp.co.uk/>

NHS Grampian has developed a suite of PA guidance documentation for Individuals, Educational Supervisors and Services that is presently under continued review in line with standard governance processes. Please see attached.

Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Grampian has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions


in relation to your request. Should you be unhappy with the outcome of that review you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

A request for review must be made within 40 working days and should, in the first instance, be in writing to: Directorate of Corporate Communications, Foresterhill House, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, AB25 2ZB or by email to [gram.foi@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.foi@nhs.scot)

Requests for appeal can be made by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's online service at [www.itspubliknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspubliknowledge.info/Appeal) or should be made in writing to: Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS Telephone: 01334 464610, Fax: 01334 464611.

If you remain dissatisfied following an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner your recourse is to the Court of Session on a point of law.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bains', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Roohi Bains**  
**Information Governance Manager & Deputy DPO**  
**NHS Grampian**