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29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 220322.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

**The role of Director/Chief/Lead of AHPs is commonly described as “Providing Workforce Leadership for Allied Health Professions, map the current AHP workforce across the trust, work with other trust AHP Directors and develop a strategic workforce plan for recruitment and retention of Allied Health Professions within the trust.”<sup>1</sup>**

**Section 1. Within your Trust, do you have a role that meets the above description?**

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

**If the answer is “Yes” answer section 2 only, and if the answer is “No” answer Section 3 only.**

## **Section 2**

### **2.1. What is title?**

- ☐ Director of AHPs  
☐ Chief AHP  
☐ Lead AHP  
☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**2.2 When was the role of Director/Chief/Lead AHP or its equivalent first created within the Trust?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.3. Is there someone currently in this post?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**If no, why not?**

**2.4. If yes, are they registered as an allied health professional (AHP)?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**2.5 If yes, which profession?**

- ☐ Art Therapist
- ☐ Drama therapist
- ☐ Music therapist
- ☐ Chiropodist/podiatrist
- ☐ Dietitian
- ☐ Occupational therapist
- ☐ Operating Department Practitioner
- ☐ Orthoptist
- ☐ Osteopath
- ☐ Paramedic
- ☐ Physiotherapist
- ☐ Prosthetist
- ☐ Orthotist
- ☐ Radiographer
- ☐ Speech and language therapist

**2.6. If they are not registered as an AHP, what is their professional background?**

**2.7. Does this individual have a position on the Trust board?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**2.8. Which Allied Healthcare professions are employed by your Trust?  
(Please complete the table below)**

	Select the AHP professions employed by your Trust	If your Trust employs this profession, select if the Director/Chief/Lead AHP or its equivalent leads/directs this profession
Art Therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drama therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chiropodists/podiatrists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dietitians Occupational therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operating Department Practitioners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orthoptists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Osteopaths	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paramedics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physiotherapists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prosthetists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orthotists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radiographers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speech and language therapists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Section 3.

It has been shown that *“there are benefits to improvement activity, as well as to the visibility and influence of the AHP workforce on the Trust’s priorities when there is a designated AHP lead”*, and that these roles should be put in place in each Trust<sup>1,2</sup>.

3.1. Do you expect to advertise/create a job role meeting the above description within the next 6 months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ **No**

3.2. If no, are you planning to advertise/create this role in the long term 12-24 months?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ **No**

**3.3 If no, what has been the main barrier/s that are preventing a job role meeting the above description from being created in the long term (12-24months)?**

The leadership is currently provided between our medical director and director of quality and nursing.

The Trust currently employs 4 Consultant AHPs and 3 Consultant Nurses / Midwives and would anticipate the development and career progression of these roles in the future.

**3.4. Is your Trust aware of the NHS England and NHS Improvement strategy (2019 *Investing in chief allied health professionals: insights from trust executives.*) to have designated AHP leads?**

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

**References:**

1. NHS England and NHS Improvement. Investing in chief allied health professionals: insights from trust executives. 2019;(July).  
<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/investing-chief-allied-health-professionals/>
2. NHS England and NHS Improvement. *Developing Allied Health Professional Leaders: A Guide for Trust Boards and Clinicians.*; 2019.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**