

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2425/182  
**From:** Private Individual  
**Date:** 27 June 2024  
**Subject:** Physician Associates within Rainbow SARC

Your trust board papers from 7th March 2024 contain the following statement: "The Rainbow Centre is a dedicated Examination Centre and child protection service. Our Doctors and Physician Associates (PAs), supported by Health Care Assistants and Nurses, examine, and advise on the medical aspects of suspected or actual child abuse."

I am writing to ask about the use of Physician Associates within the Rainbow SARC unit and safeguarding team:

Q1 Do physician associates conduct Paediatric Forensic Examinations (either alone or jointly with another clinician)?

A1 No

Q2 If yes to 1), how many Paediatric Forensic Examinations have Physician Associates performed in the last 6 months (either alone or jointly with another clinician)?

A2 Not applicable as per A1

Q3 Do physician associates act as expert witnesses?

A3 No

Q4 Please provide any governance documents related to the deployment of physician associates within your safeguarding team

A4 No documents specific to Physician Associates