

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 26th September 2025 FOI Ref 30460

Requested Information:

1. What is your trust policy or protocol/advice to your locum consultant staff when they engage with patients who are asking about their title and training completed if the locum consultant has **NOT** completed consultant level training, and does **NOT** hold a CCT or CESR and is **NOT** on the specialist register?
2. Does your trust allow the locum consultants to present themselves to patients using the Consultant title, introducing themselves as a Consultant, if they have not attained Consultant level of training and experience and are not on the GMC Specialist register? Or does your trust advise your locum consultants to introduce themselves to patients as 'Acting Consultant' and/or 'locum consultant'? Or other title? Please advise, which title is advised at your trust.

Background Information Only:

[Note: 'Consultant' is not a protected title but patients may be misled if a doctor presents themselves as a Consultant when working as a Locum Consultant or Fixed Term Consultant, when they are not on the specialist register, hold no CCT, no CESR attainment. NHS Trusts can place doctors in locum consultant and fixed consultant roles if they are not on the specialist register but certain exemptions apply. Under NHS Constitution, patients have a right to an informed choice and informed consent so knowing the level of training of the staff providing the advice is important to their choice and consent rights. Patients must not be misled by misuse of titles in this respect.]

Response:

1. What is your trust policy or protocol/advice to your locum consultant staff when they engage with patients who are asking about their title and training completed if the locum consultant has NOT completed consultant level training, and does NOT hold a CCT or CESR and is NOT on the specialist register?

There are no policies directly relating to the question in this FOI. The only Trust documents relating to Locums are linked below

[Non-Consultant Locum Work Policy](#)

[Appointment of Locum Consultants and Doctors Policy](#)

2. Does your trust allow the locum consultants to present themselves to patients using the Consultant title, introducing themselves as a Consultant, if they have not attained Consultant level of training and experience and are not on the GMC Specialist register? Or does your trust advise your locum consultants to introduce themselves to patients as 'Acting Consultant' and/or 'locum consultant'? Or other title? Please advise, which title is advised at your trust.

They would introduce themselves as per their job title or official staff ID badge. The ID badge would include the word Locum.

Attachment(s):

No attachment(s)

Date Response sent: 30th September 2025