I am writing to confirm that St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has now completed its search for the information you requested.

You asked whether Ms Paula Vasco-Knight is still employed by St. George’s, and if not, when did her employment end. You also asked if Ms Vasco-Knight is still employed by the trust, whether it is possible to disclose what process is being applied as regards her suspension and how long the trust anticipates that this process will take.

Ms Vasco-Knight was not directly employed by the Trust and was contracted through an agency. As you may be aware the Trust suspended Ms Vasco-Knight on 3rd May. Her contract was terminated on the date of suspension.

You also asked if Ms Vasco-Knight self-declared that she was a Fit and Proper Person with respect to CQC Regulation 5, at the two points at which she sought appointment to the trust roles of Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive. Please advise of the dates of any such self-declarations.

Regulation 5 is designed to ensure that people who have director level responsibility for the quality and safety of care, and for meeting fundamental standards are fit and proper to carry out this role. We have previously provided you with information with regard to the Fit and Proper Persons Assessment made by the Trust in our responses to you of 24th November 2015 and 25th April 2016. At that point in time a formal self-declaration form was not routinely used by the Trust as part of the process. I can also confirm that separate assessments were not conducted for the different roles Ms Vasco-Knight undertook within the Trust as the assessment applies to individuals who have director level responsibility and is not role specific.

I have attached a copy of the Fit and Proper Persons self-declaration form that was subsequently introduced by the Trust in early 2016 in response to your final point.

Re-use of information and copyright

This information has been provided for your own use. However, you do not have an automatic right to re-use it and if you wish to re-use the information for commercial purposes for any reason you must ask us for permission to do so. Re-use of information for some purposes, including commercial, may be subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. These regulations provide a framework for public sector organisations to decide issues relating to the re-use of their information. The provisions of current copyright law apply to information provided.

Further information can be found at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/1515/contents/made
If you are dissatisfied with the response provided you have the right to file a complaint and request an internal review of our decision. All complaints must be made in writing and sent to the Trust FOI Lead at foi@stgeorges.nhs.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Kind regards

FOI Lead
St George’s University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust