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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/21/489
Cancer Specialists

Information Requested:

I write about an FOI on staffing levels for cancer specialists in your health board. As a result, I would be grateful if you could tell me:

1. The number of current WTE specialists broken down by the professions key to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer (specifically, clinical and medical oncologists, gastroenterologists, histopathologists, clinical radiologist, diagnostic radiographer, therapeutic radiographer and specialist cancer nurse);
2. The number of currently unfilled WTE places broken down by cancer specialists listed above;
3. The weekly hours given in agency staff and bank staff by cancer specialists listed above in 2018-19 and 2019-20; and
4. Agency and Bank recruitment breakdowns (total spending and total WTE numbers) in 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 broken down by cancer specialists listed above.

Response Details:

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded, as cancer patients are catered for in all Clinical Boards of the UHB. The UHB considers that searching for this information would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

Under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, I can inform you that the UHB employ a large number of Consultant Gastroenterologists, Consultant Histopathologists and Consultant Radiologists but only a proportion of these would be deemed to be cancer specialists. Similarly, we employ a large number of diagnostic Radiographers but they would deal with all patient groups.

