

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/448
Nurse Staffing Levels - Amended

- 1. With regard to the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016, in the last 12 months how many times did Section 25B wards in hospitals within your health board area drop below calculated nurse staffing levels?**

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 or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this 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 Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that nurse staffing levels are recorded on rostering systems. The UHB is in the process of transitioning between rostering systems. Consequently, staffing level data is split between two systems. Determining instances in which 25B wards dropped below established nurse staffing levels is not possible without a significant manual review and comparison of data across both systems. However, the Board receive a report twice a year which reports the statutory requirements relating to section 25B of the Nurse Staff Levels (Wales) Act have been fulfilled.

- 2. How many DATIX reports were recorded in the last 12 months that expressed concern regarding nurse staffing levels?**

System searched	Period (date reported)	Number of reported incidents
Datix Web	01/10/2021 – 28/02/2022	621
DatixCymru	01/03/2022 – 30/09/2022	707
Total		1328

**Please note - our reporting system does not allow differentiation according to a single professional group. This data relates to staffing levels across all occupational groups, not exclusively nursing.*

Datix Web (system use ended 28/02/22) was searched for incidents coded as either:

Service disruptions > Human resource availability

Exposure to environmental hazards > Workplace stressors > Staffing levels

DatixCymru was searched for incidents coded as:

Infrastructure > Staffing