

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/024

Health Visitors

Information Requested:

1. The average (mean) caseload of children under five per full-time equivalent health visitor in the following calendar years?

- 2022
- 2021
- 2020
- 2019
- 2018

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.

2. How many health visiting staff do you currently have in total?

139.73wte

3. The total number of health visiting staff vacancies in the following calendar years?

- i) 2022 14.82wte
- ii) 2021 12.31wte
- iii) 2020 11.16wte
- iv) 2019 8.68wte
- v) 2018 10.84wte

4. Please can you confirm whether the recommended visits by health visitors are being offered? This includes:

- Home visit at 14 days
- Contact at weeks 8,12 and 16
- Contact at 6 months
- Contact at 15 months
- Contact at 27 months
- Contact at 3.5 years
- Handover to school nurse aged 4/5

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. However, under Section 16, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, The UHB can inform you that since January 2023, the generic health visiting service (not Flying Start) has been on a revised staffing plan which means lower risk families may not be offered all HCWP contacts.

This specifically relates to the 15- and 27-month contacts which may be offered by phone, virtually or deferred and a letter sent to the family asking them to make contact if they have any concerns. The letter also explains what their child should be doing developmentally at this stage.

Risk is assessed by using the Welsh Levels of Care tool and professional judgement. Families at higher risk or where the child has not had recent face to face contact would be seen as normal. From 3rd March 2023 the service will return to normal business with the support of skill mix (Band 5 nurses who have completed competencies) supporting some contact which are assessed as lower risk (WLOC 1-3).