

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/121
Physician Associates

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information related to Physician Associates employed within your Health Board, specifically:

- **The total number of Physician Associates currently employed.**

As at 1 January 2024, there is a funded establishment across Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) accounting for 11.4 WTE physician associates.

- **The number of never-events involving Physician Associates.**

There is no category field in the Datix incident reporting system for 'Physician Associate'. However, a search for 'Physician Associate' (and variations thereof) was performed using the free text description of the reported incidents. Between 1 March 2022 (the earliest possible date within the system) and 1 February 2024, fewer than five incidents were identified. The recorded level of harm ranged from 'no harm' to 'moderate harm'.

- **The number of incidents where Physician Associates have prescribed medication.**

In completing a search for the information requested, 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 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') 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.

- **The number of incidents where Physician Associates have requested ionising radiation.**

There are no Physician Associates within the UHB's Radiology Department.