

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_454_21

You asked:

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, histopathologist, clinical radiologist, diagnostic radiographer, therapeutic radiographer and specialist cancer nurse);**

The Health Board does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required. There are a wide range of staff and specialties working in Cancer Services across the Health Board (including admin). However, most staff are categorised under the speciality they work in, not specifically under cancer. For example, as a lung cancer clinical nurse specialist, they would be listed under respiratory, along with other respiratory nurse specialist who see patients with other respiratory conditions, but not cancer patients. There will also be services, such as diagnostics, where most of the clinicians will have a particular interest in a cancer pathway, but undertake this work alongside other, non cancer work.

As this is not information that the Health Board routinely compiles, we would have to carry out a specific exercise to collate, review and verify this data. From our preliminary assessment, we estimate that to comply with your particular request would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

- 2. The number of currently unfilled WTE places broken down by cancer specialists listed above;**

Please see response to question 1.

- 3. The weekly hours given in agency staff and bank staff by cancer specialists listed above in 2018-19 and 2019-20; and**

Nil.

- 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.**

The Health Board does not use Agency or Bank for cancer specialists.