

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_415_21

You asked:

Please could you supply the following information:

For the first full week of September 2021, what was the % of the baseline recommendation of WTE consultants available to staff A&E department(s) within your health board area, specifying a figure for each A&E department where applicable?

For clarity, the baselines as outlined by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine and figures should exclude the use of locums.

Our response:

Prince Charles Hospital response:

Emergency Department attendances at Prince Charles Hospital during 2019/20 excluding follow up visits are recorded as 60,263. This year has been chosen as a guide as attendance records for 2020/21 were impacted upon due to low numbers attending during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. The recorded attendances for 2021/2022 so far have returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) Workforce Guidance 2018 recommends 18 WTE consultants for a medium sized emergency department which is >60,000 and <100,000 attendances. During the first full week of September 2021 the Emergency Department at Prince Charles was staffed by 5.7 WTE consultants that is 31.7% compared to RCEM guidance. Our funded establishment for consultants in ED is 8 WTE and therefore we carry 2.3 WTE vacancies. 8 WTEs would produce 44.4% against RCEM workforce guidance. We are currently advertising for consultants with a view to recruiting to our vacancies.

Royal Glamorgan Hospital response:

Based on the RCEM guideline of 1 WTE Consultant to 3,600-4,000 new attendances we should have 18 WTE consultants based on 73098 attendances at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in last 12 months. We currently have 5.9 WTE consultants.

Princess of Wales response:

Essentially we are a small Emergency Department (<60K attendances), but only just and no recommendations from RCEM. However, we are just on lower limit of a medium sized department and therefore used that as our measurement.

Based on the RCEM guidance, in the first full week of September 2021 we had 6.3 WTE consultants in post. 0.9 WTE consultant at that time was on compassionate leave.

Therefore, at that time the % of the baseline recommendation of WTE consultants at the Princess of Wales Hospital was 35%.