

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_152_22

You asked:

Please can I submit a Freedom of Information request for the following information:

- How many cancer specialist nurses does your Health Board have?
- Do you have any specifically secondary cancer specialist nurses?
- Regarding both types of nurses, how many patients does each nurse look after?

Our response:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health board currently has 4.43 Whole time equivalent (WTE) clinical nurse specialist (CNS) working with breast cancer patients. We currently have 1.57 WTE CNS vacancies, which will be filled once the recruitment process is completed.

Currently none of these nurses formally supports secondary breast cancer patients. Although a bid is currently with Macmillan for 1 WTE CNS to undertake this role.

It is very difficult to say exactly how many patients each nurse looks after because they will be involved with some patients prior to diagnosis and will provide ongoing support for patients following treatment for as long as it is needed, this period is variable dependant on patient need. However, in 2021 we had 4,606 breast cancer referrals and 464 new diagnosis. With this figure and the number of WTE we can say that each CNS had approximately 105 new cancer patients on their caseload last year.