



GIG
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_39_26

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following recorded information held by the Trust regarding balance/vestibular services.

For the purposes of this request, "audiologist" includes clinical scientists, healthcare scientists, and practitioners working in audiology at any grade (including those specialising in balance/vestibular assessment).

1. Balance / vestibular service provision

a) How many balance or vestibular clinics does the Trust currently operate within the audiology department alone and within the ENT department

We currently operate 5 sessions (2.5 days) of balance clinics per week within Audiology alone. ENT see a variety of patients with different clinical needs and some of these will be balance patients, but they do basic balance testing that do not require any balance testing equipment. If further testing is required, they will refer directly into the balance clinic.

b) Where balance/vestibular assessments are provided within a wider service rather than via a standalone clinic, please indicate this.

None.

2. Employment of audiologists

a) How many audiologists are currently employed by the Trust that are active in offering vestibular assessment at the date of this request (headcount and FTE, if held)?

There are 2 Audiologists currently offering vestibular assessments:

1x FTE (37.5 hours)

1x part time 0.92 FTE (34.5 hours)

These individuals hold senior leadership roles which is shared with advance adult rehab or paediatric responsibilities.

There are another 2 training to provide vestibular assessments.

2x FTE 37.5 hours - Plan to pick up 1 session/ fortnight each.

b) How many audiologists are currently employed by the Trust that are active in offering vestibular rehabilitation at the date of this request (headcount and FTE, if held)?

As above.

3. Workforce needs – current

Does the Trust hold assessment, workforce plan, or internal analysis relating to the number of audiologists required to meet current service demand? If so, please provide that assessment.

Yes. Locally we review referrals into the balance service vs clinic activity.

Clinical activity: 8 assessments / week = 35/ month (without annual leave)

30/ month with annual leave (no meetings/ training/ staff sickness etc.)

4. Workforce needs – future

Does the Trust hold any assessment, workforce plan, or projection relating to future audiology workforce needs? for example, 3 years, 5 years, or 10 years). If so, please provide that/those assessments.

Yes. The Health Board holds internal workforce assessments and planning information as part of its annual Integrated Medium-Term Plan Education Commissioning process over the next 5 years.

Specifically, to the balance service we have requested 1 x STP (Scientific Training Program) trainee in 2024, 2025, 2027. We have also request and have had success in gaining funding for M-Level study, HTS and equivalence. This will help when one of our balance team retires fully.

5. Long-term planning

Does the Trust hold any assessment or modelling of audiology (including balance/vestibular) workforce or service needs looking ahead 10 years or more?If so, please provide that/those assessments.

The Health Board does not currently hold a standalone 10+ year modelling document specifically for Audiology.