



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: ATISN 15112

18 June 2021

Dear ,

**Complaint in respect of ATISN 15112 – Funding for clinical psychology training**

Thank you for your email of 2 May requesting the following information:

- 1. Clarify if the Minister for Health and Social Services (MHSS) is responsible for authorising the allocation of public money to Health Education in Wales (HEIW) in respect of the provision of employment and pre-registration training in clinical psychology of NHS employees employed by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.*
- 2. Clarify under what statutory legislation the MHSS allocates public money to HEIW in respect of point 1 above.*
- 3. Copies of correspondence sent by the MHSS and/or Welsh Government to HEIW setting out the legal basis on which public money is allocated to HEIW in respect of point 1 above.*

On 26 May, we wrote to you providing information in relation to the first 2 points of your request, confirming that the MHSS is responsible for authorising the allocation of public money in response of the functions of HEIW, one of which is education commissioning. HEIW directly commission and fund healthcare professional education and training including the provision of employment and pre-registration training in clinical psychology. We also confirmed that Section 171 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (“the Act”) provides the powers for the MHSS to allocate public money to HEIW. We indicated that we do not hold information in relation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of your request

Also on 26 May you emailed regarding the response issued on 26.05.2021 at 10:34 alleging that the response was unsatisfactory and in breach of the FOI Act 2000 because it failed to disclose information requests; contains false statements

intended to conceal information and conceals information that is subject to disclosure. Your complaint details the reasons that you believe our response was not accurate and so breaches the provision of the FOI Act 2000.

I have reviewed our response to the FOI request and talked to the policy team responsible for the education and training commissioning process as part of this review. I do not uphold your complaint as the information that you requested has been provided.

I thought, however, it might be helpful to provide a bit more context to the answers and the points you make in your complaint to clarify why I consider that the information provided in response to your FOI was correct and met the requirements of the Act.

On your point 1, you contend that we did not provide the information requested because we say 'I can confirm the Minister is responsible for authorising the allocation of public money in response of the functions of HEIW, one of which is education commissioning'. You contend that this is not correct because *'the NHS employees (Clinical Psychology Trainees) are full-time salaried NHS employees employed by Cardiff and Vale Local University Health Board on initial three-year contracts of employment issued to the NHS employees pursuant of the Employment Rights Act 1996'*.

Whilst the trainees are employed, these places provide training and development to enable the individuals to obtain their professional qualification and so practice as a clinical psychologist. As such, the number of trainee places are commissioned by HEIW as part of their education commissioning process (this includes trainee salaries), which is funded by the Welsh Government as we set out in our response.

On your point 3, I have attached a copy of the letter that allocates the funding to HEIW for education and training commissioning. We did not disclose this in response to your request as it does not *'set out the legal basis on which public money is allocated to HEIW for the clinical psychologist places'*. This letter is, nonetheless, how we allocate this element of the funding to HEIW for education commissioning.

Funding is allocated to HEIW for education and training commissioning under Section 171 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 as per our response to your question 2.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745  
Fax: 01625 524 510  
Email: [casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales  
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae  
Pencoed  
Bridgend  
CF35 5LJ

Telephone: 0845 6010987 (local rate)  
Email: [ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk](mailto:ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Arthur**  
Director of Workforce and Corporate Business