



Ref: ATISN 24977

29 July 2025

Dear ,

**ATISN 24977 – Health Research Recruitment**

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 23 July 2025 relating to the recruitment in relation to the voluntary scheme for branding medicines pricing agreement (vpag).

You have requested the following:

1. *Total Health & Care Research Wales Support & Delivery centre Welsh Government funding for the past 5 years 2021-2022 - 2025-2026*
2. *Total number of Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above paid for out of this funding for the past 5 years 2021-2022 - 2025-2026.*
3. *Total cost of Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above paid for out of this funding for the past 5 years*
4. *Total vpag funding received in Wales since the scheme commenced in January 2024.*
5. *Total amount of vpag funding given to Health Boards since the scheme commenced in January 2024.*
6. *Total number of new Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above paid for out of vpag funding since the scheme commenced in January 2024.*
7. *Total cost of those Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above paid for out of vpag funding since the scheme commenced in January 2024.*
8. *Total number of new Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above paid for out of vpag funding since the scheme commenced in January 2024 which have been given to internal employees moving jobs and-or being promoted.*
9. *Total cost of continuing to pay for all Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above out of vpag funding to the end of the scheme in December 2028.*
10. *Total number of extra Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above not yet advertised to be paid for to the end of the scheme in December 2028.*

11. *Total cost of extra Admin & Clerical senior posts band 7 and above not yet advertised to be paid for to the end of the scheme in December 2028.*
12. *Total vpag money received in Wales for the whole scheme January 2024 to December 2028.*
13. *Percentage of Admin and Clerical band 7 and above cost from total vpag money January 2024 to December 2028.*
14. *Comparison of Admin & Clerical band 7 and above posts already paid for from vpag money in Wales against England, Scotland and Northern Ireland since January 2024.*
15. *Comparison of Admin & Clerical band 7 and above posts expected to be paid for from vpag money in Wales against England, Scotland and Northern Ireland before December 2028.*

## **Our Response**

Welsh Government can confirm that it holds information that falls into scope of your request.

This information has been collated by the Science, Research and Evidence Division in Welsh Government and the Health and Care Research Wales Support and Delivery Centre, hosted by Powys teaching Health Board.

1. Core budget received from Welsh Government  
2021/22 - £2,915,455.57  
2022/23 - £2,286,142.57  
2023/24 - £3,867,902.09  
2024/25 - £4,195,254.90  
2025/26 – Full year funding determined at year-end – current forecast £4,112,287.33

2.

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>No. of Posts</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2021-2022             | 26                  |
| 2022-2023             | 30                  |
| 2023-2024             | 28                  |
| 2024-2025             | 32                  |
| 2025-2026             | 30 (forecast)       |

3.

| Financial Year | Total Cost £        |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 2021-2022      | 1,501,817           |
| 2022-2023      | 1,804,036           |
| 2023-2024      | 1,918,591           |
| 2024-2025      | 2,094,785           |
| 2025- 2026     | £2,228,883 forecast |

4. 2024/25 - £500,000  
Further funding is expected to be provided for 2025-2028 totalling £22.1m over 5 years.
5. £500,000  
Further Grant Award Letters are pending to NHS organisations who will receive further VPAG funding.
6. Support and Delivery Centre – 1 currently in post  
Further Grant Award Letters are pending to NHS organisations who will receive further VPAG funding.
7. Support and Delivery Centre £18,048 - part year costs in 24/25.  
Further Grant Award Letters are pending to NHS organisations who will receive further VPAG funding.
8. Support and Delivery Centre – 0  
Further Grant Award Letters are pending to NHS organisations who will receive further VPAG funding. This information will only be available via the NHS organisations.
9. Support and Delivery Centre – one position currently in post (full time costs over 2 years) £123,756 (forecasted)  
Further Grant Award Letters are pending to NHS organisations who will receive further VPAG funding.
10. Support and Delivery Centre – 3WTE (forecasted but not yet advertised)  
For NHS organisations, this information is held within NHS organisations.
11. Support and Delivery Centre £509,092 (forecasted but not yet advertised)  
For NHS organisations, this information is held within NHS organisations.
12. £500,000 has been received by Welsh Government to date.  
Further funding is expected to be provided for 2025-2028 totalling £22.1m over 5 years.
13. Support and Delivery Centre – 3.6% in total based on i) positions in post ii) posts advertised but not yet in post (forecasted amount included) and iii) posts to be advertised (forecasted amount included)

For NHS organisations, this information is held within NHS organisations.

14. The Welsh Government does not hold data for other UK nations.

15. The Welsh Government does not hold data for other UK nations.

Further information can be found on the following link [Investing in commercial research delivery | Health Care Research Wales](#)

## **Next Steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ  
or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,