

18 August 2025

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 24995 – Physician Associates

I am responding to your email which was received on 29 July 2025, in which you asked us to review the response issued to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This letter is to inform you of the outcome.

In your Freedom of Information request dated 27 July, you requested the following: *For each of the last three financial years, please provide the total amount of direct funding provided to each individual Health Board for Physician Associate roles.*

Welsh Government was able to respond on 29 July and stated that the Welsh Government does not hold this information as no direct funding has been provided. You may wish to contact Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) for this information HEIW.foi@wales.nhs.uk

You requested an internal review to be undertaken as you believed that Welsh Government did not provide the correct information and cited an Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) document in which it quoted £59,000 in funding for physician associates. Therefore, you believe that we may have provided incorrect information, based on content of ABUHB's document as it appears to suggest that the Welsh Government has provided or agreed to provide funding for physician associates in 2025-26.

Following a review of the information available, the Welsh Government position remains that we have not provided any direct funding provided to health boards specifically for physician associates within the timeframe specified in your request.

With regards to the £59,000 referenced in the ABUHB document, our understanding is that this figure represents a projected funding that ABUHB anticipated receiving for physician associates. This was not confirmed funding from Welsh Government, and we are not aware of the basis on which this assumption was made.

The figure had been queried with ABUHB on several occasions prior to your request for an internal review. The health board has since indicated that their financial plan for 2025-26 has been amended accordingly to exclude this income assumption as they were unable to provide evidence for the assumption.

In summary, I am satisfied that the information previously provided in response to your FOI is accurate. The Welsh Government has not provided, nor committed to provide, funding to any health board in Wales for physician associates.

I have reviewed our response to your FOI request in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#) which is available by post on request or via the internet. In my view this was a reasonable response, and therefore I do not uphold your complaint.

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

[FOI and EIR complaints | ICO](#)

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

Yours sincerely

Director of Workforce and Organisational Development
Cyfarwyddwr y Gweithlu a Datblygu Sefydliadol