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Velindre University NHS Trust Headquarters

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Heol Billingsley  
Parc Nantgarw  
Caerdydd/Cardiff  
CF15 7QZ

Ffôn/Phone : (029) 20196161

<https://velindre.nhs.wales>

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Ref: CORP 2023-077

Dear \*\*\*\*\*

### **Freedom of Information request: Physiotherapy Services (CORP 2023-077)**

Thank you for your request for the following information which the Trust received on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

#### **Your Request:**

***Request 1: Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) physiotherapists, technicians and assistants, by Agenda for Change (AfC) band, were employed by Velindre NHS Trust (children & young people's services and adult services) on the 31st of March 2023.***

*This should include any generic assistant or technical instructor posts that support physiotherapy service provision. Also, please note that physiotherapy staff work in a range of clinical settings. The answer to this request must also capture physiotherapy staff not directly line-managed by the head of physiotherapy services eg occupational health, community resource teams (CRTs).*

***Request 2: Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) physiotherapist, technician and assistant vacancies were held in Velindre NHS Trust as of 31st of March 2023.***

*The answer should identify the number of registered physiotherapists and the number of unregistered support staff as separate figures. Do not include admin and clerical.*

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**Request 3:** Please confirm or deny if Velindre NHS Trust has had any periods of time within the last 12 months to the 31st of March 2023 where recruitment to posts has been delayed?

If confirmed, please provide reasons (short narrative) for the delay.

**Request 4:** Please confirm or deny whether there have been any physiotherapy service developments in Velindre NHS Trust during the last financial year (April 2022 to end of March 2023).

If confirmed:

- a. Please provide details of the developments.
- b. Please confirm or deny whether these were supported by additional resources.

**Request 5:** Please confirm or deny if there have been any discontinued posts and/or services in the last year (April 2022 to end of March 2023).

If confirmed, please provide details.

**Request 6:** Please confirm or deny if there has been any increase or decrease in demand for physiotherapy services in the last year (April 2022 to end of March 2023).

If confirmed, please provide details.

**Request 7:** Please provide details of the level of budget increase or reduction made by the physiotherapy service in Velindre NHS Trust in the last financial year (April 2022 to end of March 2023) and what this is as a percentage of the physiotherapy budget.

**Request 8:** Please provide details of projected % budgetary savings to be made for this financial year (April 2022 to end of March 2023).

**Request 9:** Please provide details of spend on agency/locum staff in the last year April 2022 to end of March 2023.

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The Trust has reviewed your request which is correctly formatted and complies with Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Information you have requested is below:

### Request 1:

VCC do not operate children and young people's services, although some patients will fall into the young people category. Please find below the current staff analysis.

Role	Band	Hours	Tenure
Head of Therapies	8c	1.0wte (Physiotherapist delivering 2 PT sessions/month)	Permanent
Deputy Head of Therapies	8b	1.0wte (Physiotherapist delivering 4 PT sessions/month)	Permanent
Advanced Practice trainee Gynae-Oncology Physiotherapist	7	0.8wte	FTC until April 2023
Highly Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist	7	0.6wte	Permanent
Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist	6	0.9wte	Permanent

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Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist	6	0.8wte  0.14wte	Permanent  Additional temporary uplift in hours
Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist	6 (Mat leave until Dec '22)	0.64wte	FTC (backfill for Advanced Practice Gynae-Oncology post)  Substantive post
Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist	6 (Mat leave until Dec '22)	0.5wte	Permanent

Role	Band	Hours	Tenure
Generic Therapies Technician	4	0.8wte (split time with OT team)	Permanent
Generic Therapies Technician - SDEC	4	0.6wte (split time with OT team)	Permanent

Also, please note that Trust has used 1 x 0.4 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) locum Physiotherapist for 2022/23 for maternity leave backfill. Additionally, 1 x 0.6 WTE locum for part of the year due to Staff vacancies.

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### Request 2:

The service vacancies on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 are shown in the table below. There were no vacancies for support worker and technician posts.

Vacancy / Job title	Band	Hours	Tenure	Recruitment stage
Advanced Practice trainee Gynae-Oncology Physiotherapist & Outpatient Clinical Lead	7	0.8wte	Permanent	Appointed at interview. Awaiting start date.
Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist	6	0.64wte	Permanent	Appointed at interview. Awaiting start date.

### Request 3:

Delay in the recruitment process of a Band 6 Specialist Oncology Physiotherapist (0.8 WTE, permanent) post, meant that we were unable to recruit on first two round of advertising. Candidates did not meet the requirements of the post (Job Description/Person Specification). Eventually, a successful candidate was offered the post on the third round of recruitment, but the process resulted in a delay of four months.

### Request 4:

#### Same Day Emergency Care – Physiotherapy services to Ambulatory Care Unit (ACU)

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Velindre Cancer Centre (VCC) was awarded Welsh Government Same Day Emergency Care funding to develop the current ambulatory care current workforce model and future proof the service. This funding enabled recruitment of a 0.6 band 7 Physiotherapist and 0.6 WTE band 6 Occupational Therapist & a 0.6 WTE band 4 Generic Therapies Technician for the Ambulatory Care Unit(ACU). The ACU at VCC provides scheduled procedures in line with the Principles for Ambulatory Emergency Care delivery in Wales. Key objectives of the ACU therapies service are:

- To continue to provide holistic support for VCC's increasing ambulatory patient case load.
- Keep patients well through treatment by early identification of problems.
- Support admission avoidance.
- Reduce length of stay.
- Improve quality of life.
- Maximise independence.
- Reduce care costs.

### Gynae-Oncology Trainee Advanced Practitioner post

The post was funded for 3 years from charitable funds, this funding was up to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

### First Advanced Practitioner for Physiotherapy at Velindre Cancer Centre.

This post is supported by the Gynecological Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), developments include

- Pre-habilitation clinic pre-radiotherapy.
- Pathway development
- Virtual Pilates group
- Patient resources
- Patient education

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- Input into late effects of pelvic radiotherapy clinic, including the coordinating, evaluating and participation in the late effects of pelvic radiotherapy MDT service
- Collation of patient feedback /outcome measures
- Successful application for small grant to enable UK-wide scoping project on the use of pelvic dilators during radiotherapy, in 2023/24.

### Request 5:

This falls under the 'We Can Physical Activity Programme' which is delivered from the core budget. This Service was placed on hold due to maternity leave and a support worker vacancy during September 2022 and February 2023. The member of Staff has now returned from maternity leave and been recruited into this support worker post. They are currently working through the physical activity service offer as part of Outpatient Physiotherapy service development in 2023/24.

### Request 6:

Inpatient beds previously closed due to COVID have reopened during 2022/23, although COVID has continued to impact on service delivery during this year. An increase in patient complexity has also been noted. There is an overall **increase in demand in inpatient and assessment unit** services from previous years.

There has been a **reduction in demand for outpatient services** which can be explained by two of the outpatient physiotherapy staff (1.14 WTE) away from work on maternity leave between March 2022 and December 2023, with the Service being provided by a 0.4 WTE locum Physiotherapist.

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Data for 2021/22 and 2022/23 is:

	2021/22	2022/23
New patients Inpatients	309	338
New patients Assessment Unit	292	376
New patients Outpatients	422	282

### Request 7:

- The total budget for 2021/22 was £264,160.
- The total budget for 2022/23 was £288,222

This means that there was an increase of £24,062 which equates to a 9.11% increase on 2021/22.

### Request 8:

Savings are not directed at individual departments but rather as Directorate savings which subsequently feeds into the Division's overall target.

Please note that Physiotherapy was underspent by £48,000 for 2022/23 which equates to 16.68% of the total budget.

### Request 9:

£50,606 of agency spend was for the for the Physiotherapy service in 2022/23, this Service is articulated in **Request 1**.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. Please note that you must submit a request for a

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review within 40 days of the date of this letter.

You should forward your complaint to:-

Mr Ian Bevan via [FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk)  
Head of Information Governance  
Velindre University NHS Trust  
2, Charnwood Court  
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Tel / Ffon - 029 20196161

Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales  
2nd Floor,  
Churchill House,  
Churchill Way,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 2HH  
Telephone: 0330 414 6421  
email: [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Fear  
Director of Corporate Governance and Chief of Staff  
Velindre University NHS Trust

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