



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 15227

12 July 2021

Dear

ATISN 15227 – Musculoskeletal assessments

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 13 June. You requested information in relation to the Welsh Government's 2017 publication on "Recommended Guidelines: Establishment of a Clinical Musculoskeletal Assessment Treatment Service" ("recommended guidelines") specifically:

- 1. To provide details of the qualifications and level of experience required to be a CMATs lead and provide details of how health boards give assurance to Welsh Government that they are adhering to the recommended guidelines.*
- 2. To provide details of the qualifications and level of experience required to be a lead clinician, including standard job description and provide details of how health boards give assurance to Welsh Government that they are adhering to the recommended guidelines.*
- 3. To confirm which health boards in Wales are adhering and not adhering to these recommended guidelines, broken down by year since 1 January 2015 to the 13 June 2021.*

Our response

The Welsh Government holds some of the information of this description and it is enclosed at Annex A of this letter.

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

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,

Annex A

- 1. To provide details of the qualifications and level of experience required to be a CMATs lead and provide details of how health boards give assurance to Welsh Government that they are adhering to the recommended guidelines.**

The recommended guidelines set out the recommendations for the establishment of a CMAT service. They are not mandatory and serve as guidance/good practice recommendations for health boards to use when setting up their CMAT service. The guidelines clearly state that the CMATS lead needs to be clearly defined and agreed by each health board, and, as a minimum the service should be led by a skilled clinician with postgraduate experience/qualification in the management of MSK conditions as well as leadership skills to head up this service. Ideally a Consultant in Sports and Exercise Medicine would be part of the leadership team.

Whilst we seek assurance from each health board that they have in place a suitable referral, assessment and treatment service for all soft tissue and joint conditions that are non-inflammatory and do not require emergency treatment, we do not audit health boards against the detail of each guideline.

- 2. To provide details of the qualifications and level of experience required to be a lead clinician, including standard job description and provide details of how health boards give assurance to Welsh Government that they are adhering to the recommended guidelines.**

See information under 1.

- 3. To confirm which health boards in Wales are adhering and not adhering to these recommended guidelines, broken down by year since 1 January 2015 to the 13 June 2021.**

Information not held. For this information you may wish to contact the health boards directly.