

Dear

### **ATISN 20400 – Health Education and Improvement Wales**

Thank you for your email received on 26 March 2024 regarding Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). You requested the following.

1. *The total amount of funding that HEIW has received from Welsh Government related to the oversight and development of Physician Associates (PAs) and Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) for each of the last three years, and the expected funding for the next three years, broken down by year.*
2. *Specifics regarding the conditions and expectations tied to this funding.*
3. *A copy of the terms of engagement or any other formal agreements that outline the obligations and expected outcomes, including key performance indicators (KPIs), for the funds provided.*
4. *The latest minutes from any meetings with HEIW associated with this funding.*

### **Our Response**

1. The funding of Physician Associates (PAs) is part of the broader annual Education and Training Plan, meaning that the numbers are commissioned annually, though there is no separate budget for this, as the costs are included within the total budget for the Education and Training Plan. This total budget is £281.98m for 2024/25.

Commissioned Numbers over the last three years for PAs are:

2024/25 - 57

2023/24 – 57

2022/23 – 54

The Education and Training Plan is publicly available on HEIW's website and includes commissioned numbers for PAs:

[Education and Training Plan - HEIW \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.heiw.nhs.wales/education-and-training-plan-2022-23/)

[heiw.nhs.wales/files/heiw-etp-2023-24/](https://www.heiw.nhs.wales/files/heiw-etp-2023-24/)

[heiw.nhs.wales/files/education-and-training-plan-2022-23/](https://www.heiw.nhs.wales/files/education-and-training-plan-2022-23/)

There is no commissioning process for Anaesthesia Associates (AAs). Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) fund a pilot with Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB), so they have alternative funding arrangements in place outside of the usual commissioning process.

In Wales, Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is the strategic workforce and education body. HEIW has a responsibility to commission professional healthcare

education and training on behalf of the Welsh Government, to address the NHS Wales workforce requirements to deliver safe and quality services. for the benefit of the population of Wales. Their remit is to deliver an affordable, financially balanced plan aligned to government priorities and workforce strategies and is deliverable within the context of the education and training capacity available.

2. Whilst there are no specifics regarding the conditions and expectations tied to this funding in relation to PAs or AAs as there is no distinct budget for this, the overall budget carries expectations of HEIW delivering on their statutory requirements and is subject to regular monitoring against deliverables. The overall funding provided to HEIW is allocated and monitored by the HSS Finance Team using established systems and processes to ensure consistency, in addition to this high-level performance monitoring of NHS Workforce issues is undertaken through the Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP) process.

In response to questions 3 and 4, we do not provide funding for PAs separately therefore there are no conditions, expectations or meetings with minutes tied to that funding.

### **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,