

Reference:	FOI.17516.25
Subject:	Consultant posts
Date of Request:	5 June 2025

Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, can you please supply for your NHS board:

1. The total number of consultant-level doctors you currently have [WTE or equivalent]
2. The total number of vacant consultant-level doctor posts you currently have [WTE or equivalent]

Please also supply:

3. The total number of consultant-level posts substantially filled by agency locums for more than 6 months [WTE or equivalent]
4. The total spend on agencies for locum consultants (both framework and non-framework) for the 2024/25 financial year [£s]
5. Any existing or planned controls on recruitment of medical staff in 2025/26 [free text]

Response:

1. & 2. Within the table below Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, the current total number of filled Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Medical and Dental Consultant posts and the remaining vacancies. Also provided is the total number of budgeted FTE posts for Medical and Dental Consultants.

Roles	Total FTE Budget Held	Total FTE Posts Filled	FTE Vacancy
Medical and Dental Consultants	342.7	302.9	39.8

3. The UHB can inform you that it had a total of ten (10) Consultant-level posts substantially filled by agency locums for 6 months or more during the 2024/25 financial year. Of the ten (10), eight (8) Consultants worked for more than 6 months during the same time period.
4. The UHB provides within the table below, the total spend for on and off framework locum Consultants for the 2024/25 financial year.

2024/25	Spend
On-framework	£2,860,868.10
Off-framework	£452,977.77
Total	£3,313,845.87

5. The UHB has always maintained an agency control framework, which ensures scrutiny of medical agency usage through our internal agency forums. Currently, a Financial Control Group is in place to provide additional oversight of agency usage.

In addition, a Stabilisation Group has been established to assess and analyse agency usage across all professional groups within the UHB, with the aim of achieving a 30% reduction in agency usage during the financial year 2025/2026.