

Reference:	FOI.19385.26
Subject:	Meddygfa Sarn/Sarn Surgery
Date of Request:	23 January 2026

Requested:

1. How long has Sarn Surgery Pontyates been without a resident GP and what efforts has the Board taken to recruit one?
2. Please list all recruitment strategy the board has taken, meeting, job adverts, dates etc.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that Meddygfa Sarn has not had a salaried GP since February 2025, when the GP Clinical Lead left their employment.

However, a new salaried GP Clinical Lead has recently been appointed jointly with Meddygfa Minafon, commencing in March 2026 on a twelve (12) month fixed-term basis.

2. The UHB confirms that it has not had any recruitment initiatives for Meddygfa Sarn, during the last twelve (12) months. However, the UHB provides below, details of the GP recruitment efforts below:

- GP recruitment and succession planning was a factor in the resignation of the General Medical Services (GMS) contract by the Partners back in 2017, with Meddygfa Sarn having little success with the recruitment of permanent GPs since. Challenges with GP recruitment have been a major driver of sustainability issues for practices nationally, particularly for smaller rural practices.
- A salaried GP was recruited at Meddygfa Sarn in 2021, however, left their employment later that year.
- A GP Clinical Lead (jointly with neighbouring Meddygfa Minafon) served until 2025. This post has now been recruited to; details provided in response to question 1.
- Recruitment across the UHB's Managed Practices in Carmarthenshire has focussed on offering flexibility in sessions in an effort to make roles more attractive.
- The UHB has periodically written to all GP locums working in Managed Practices offering them the opportunity to consider salaried opportunities within the Managed Practices; letters were sent in August 2021, January 2023 and September 2024. However, there was no response from any locum working in Meddygfa Sarn to indicate that they would wish to take up a salaried post with the UHB.
- Meddygfa Sarn currently remains dependent on GP locums to provide medical cover.