

Reference:	FOI.20328.26
Subject:	Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (MRCP (UK)) diploma
Date of Request:	29 April 2026

Requested:

1. Are there doctors employed within Hywel Dda University Health Board within the Medicine directorate on Consultant or SAS contracts without the MRCP (UK) Diploma?
 - a. If so how many in total across the Health Board?

Please subcategorise the total number by Hospital Site and Contract Type (Consultant vs SAS).

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information requested, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual trawl of each Consultant and SAS doctor’s personal file to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as the information requested is not centrally recorded.

The UHB can confirm that the UHB employed one thousand and fifty-seven (1,057) Consultants and SAS doctors, as at 11 May 2026. It is estimated that a manual search of these records would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of doctors employed, conducting a search, taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per record, would exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

1,057 @ 5 minutes per record = 88 hours and 5 minutes
 88 hours and 5 minutes @ £25 per hour = £2,202.08

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA, which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of all consultant and SAS doctor personal files to be undertaken to identify the information to fulfil your request.