

Reference:	FOI.19901.26
Subject:	Podiatry
Date of Request:	12 March 2026

Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information:

1. What was the total qualified podiatry workforce in your Health Board on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis on 1st January 2025?
2. What was the total qualified podiatry workforce in your Health Board on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis on 1st January 2026?
3. Within your Podiatry department in your Health Board what number of vacancies were there on 1st February 2026?
4. How many roles within the Podiatry department in your Health Board have been advertised from 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026?
5. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board how many applications did you receive per post advertised between 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026
6. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board of the posts advertised between 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026 how many received no applications?
7. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board of the posts advertised between 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026, how many roles were you unable to appoint?
8. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board of the posts advertised between 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026 which banding it is your Health Board having the most difficulty to recruit qualified podiatrists to?
9. How many WTE locum hours did your Health Board employ within the Podiatry department in your Health Board per month in 2025?
10. How many podiatrists left the your Health Board between 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026 (Please specify WTE)
11. Of those who left your Health Board between 1st January 2025 to 1st January 2026 specify their reason for leaving
 - a. Retirement
 - b. Change of career
 - c. Private practice
 - d. Other

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that there were 33.29 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff within its Podiatry workforce, as at 1 January 2025.

2. The UHB confirms there were 32.45 FTE staff within its Podiatry workforce, as at 1 January 2026.
3. The UHB confirms there were zero (0) vacancies within its Podiatry department at 1 February 2026.
4. During the period 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026, five (5) vacancies have been advertised within the UHB's Podiatry department.
5. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of applications received per vacancy advertised, during the period 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026.

Job Title	Number of applications received
Podiatrist	*
Podiatrist	*
Orthotics Officer/Podiatry Assistant	21
Orthotics Officer/Podiatry Assistant	13
Clinical Advanced Podiatrist	5

Where the figures in the table above has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

6. The UHB confirms zero (0) of the vacancies advertised within the Podiatry department between 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026 received no applications.
7. The UHB confirms zero (0) of the vacancies advertised within the Podiatry department between 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026 were not appointed into.
8. The UHB does not hold this information as all vacancies advertised during the period 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026 were appointed into.
9. The UHB confirms no locums have been employed within the Podiatry department during the period 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026.
10. The UHB confirms 4.17 FTE Podiatrists left the UHB during the period 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026.
11. Of the Podiatrists detailed in response to question 10, the UHB lists their reasons for leaving below:
 - Retirement Age

- Voluntary Early Retirement – with Actuarial Reduction
- Voluntary Resignation

Please note: some podiatrists who left during this period may have returned to the UHB.