

Reference:	FOI.3605.20
Subject:	Surgical care practitioners
Date of Request:	20 July 2020

Requested:

1. Split by role type, how many perioperative practitioners are employed in surgery within your Trust/Health Board? (Include trainees). Please provide both FTE and head count figures.
2. Split by role type, how many of the perioperative practitioners employed in surgery within your Trust/Health Board are trainees? Please provide both FTE and head count figures.
3. Split by role type, which statutory regulators are the perioperative practitioners employed in surgery by your Trust/Health Board registered with? (please provide head count numbers)
4. The number of perioperative practitioners employed in surgery by your Trust/Health Board by role type and pay band (as per the NHS AfC pay scales, 1 April 2020)? (please provide head count numbers)
5. Please provide FTE and head count figures for perioperative practitioners employed in surgery by your Trust/Health Board, split by surgical specialty.
6. The number of perioperative practitioners employed in surgery within your Trust/Health Board split by role type and gender? (please provide head count numbers)
7. The number of perioperative practitioners employed in surgery within your Trust/Health Board split by role type and age band? (please provide head count numbers)
8. What was the total annual CPD budget for your Trust/Health Board in 2018 and 2019?
9. How much of this total CPD budget was allocated specifically to perioperative practitioners in surgery within your Trust/Health Board in 2018 and 2019?
10. What was the actual expenditure on CPD for perioperative practitioners in surgery within your Trust/Health Board in 2018 and in 2019?
11. In your Trust/Health Board, do the job descriptions for perioperative practitioners in surgery specify a CPD requirement for these roles?
12. What are the current arrangements for annual appraisal for perioperative practitioners within your NHS Trust?
13. What are the clinical supervision arrangements for perioperative practitioners in surgery within your Trust/Health Board? Please specify whether clinical supervisors are from a medical or nursing background.
14. How many surgical procedures (within the operating theatre) were carried out within your Trust/Health Board during 2019?
15. Provide the total number of these surgical procedures (within the operating theatre) which were performed or assisted by perioperative practitioners during 2019.

16. In regard to question 15 above provide a breakdown of the number of procedures where each role type was required.

Response:

The UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 6 and 7 due to the low numbers (5 and under), 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 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.

The information for question 12 is already within the public domain; therefore, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is accessible by another means.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link that will take you directly to the UHB's Performance Appraisal and Personal Development Plan policy:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/045-PADRPolyV4%20-%20DPA.pdf>

The UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 15 and 16, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate level" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ 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 being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all surgical procedure records for the calendar year 2019, to identify any information that fulfils your request.

Therefore, for questions 15 and 16, the UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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.

The UHB has provided the remaining information as requested within the attached spreadsheet, Attachment 1.