

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-174	12 th May 2021
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Request 1: Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) physiotherapists, technicians and assistants, by Agenda for Change (AfC) band, were employed by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (children & young people's services and adult services) on the 31st of March 2021.

This should include any generic assistant or technical instructor posts that support physiotherapy service provision. Also, please note that physiotherapy staff work in a range of clinical settings. The answer to this request must also capture physiotherapy staff not directly line-managed by the head of physiotherapy services eg occupational health, community resource teams (CRTs).

Band	WTE 2021	WTE 2019
Physiotherapist Band 5	48.00	44.23
Physiotherapist Band 6	94.83	98.59
Physiotherapist Band 7	54.69	65.01
Physiotherapist Band 8a	11.98	9.81
Physiotherapist Band 8b	3.00	3.00
Physiotherapist Band 8c	1.00	1.00
Physiotherapy Support Band 2	7.02	5.93
Physiotherapy Support Band 3	16.91	14.49
Physiotherapy Support Band 4	19.75	15.04
Total excluding Generic Support Workers	257.45	255.89
Generic Support Band 2	0	0
Generic Support Band 3	6.4	13.51
Generic Support Band 4	0.6	15.05
Total including Generic Support Workers	264.45	284.45

NB the figures submitted in 2019 for the same FOI have been included as there is a significant difference in the total WTE, this is due to a difference in the number of generic support staff reported by the CRTs.

Request 2: Please confirm how many whole time equivalent (WTE) physiotherapist, technician and assistant vacancies were held in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board as of 31st of March 2021. The answer should identify the number of registered physiotherapists and the number of unregistered support staff as separate figures. Do not include admin and clerical.

Band	WTE
Physiotherapist Band 5	0.5
Physiotherapist Band 6	4.11
Physiotherapist Band 7	6.68
Physiotherapist Band 8a	1
Physiotherapist Band 8b	0

Physiotherapist Band 8c	0
Physiotherapy Support Band 2	0
Physiotherapy Support Band 3	0.39
Physiotherapy Support Band 4	0
Generic Support Band 2	0
Generic Support Band 3	0
Generic Support Band 4	0
Total	12.68

Request 3: Please confirm or deny if Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has had any periods of time within the last 12 months to the 31st of March 2021 where recruitment to posts has been delayed? If confirmed, please provide reasons (short narrative) for the delay.

Recruitment to posts has not been delayed but the time taken to get successful candidates, both external and internal into post has is extended by the time taken to complete pre-employment checks.

Request 4: Please confirm or deny whether there have been any physiotherapy service developments in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board during the last financial year (April 2020 to end of March 2021).

If confirmed:

- Please provide details of the developments.
- Please confirm or deny whether these were supported by additional resources.

Service Area	Service Development	Staffing (WTE and band)	Additional resources
Monmouth CRT	funding for 1.0 WTE physiotherapist for HMP Usk & Prescoed	1.0 WTE	Funding for 1.0 WTE
Core Physiotherapy service	Band 5 rotation to Blaenau Gwent CRT	1.0 WTE band 5	Funding for 1.0 WTE band 5 cross charged to CRT
Core	Switch to telehealth for all outpatient activity	From existing establishment	Additional ICT equipment: laptops, headsets and cameras
Core Physiotherapy Service	Use of Attend Anywhere for video appointments	From existing establishment	Additional ICT equipment: laptops, headsets and cameras
Core Physiotherapy Service	Post Covid rehabilitation group	From existing establishment	From existing resources
Core Physiotherapy Service	Primary Care Calls (PCC) - direct access for MSK patients	From existing establishment	From existing resources

Service Area	Service Development	Staffing (WTE and band)	Additional resources
Core Physiotherapy Service (MSK)	Centralised clinic staffed with 2 WTE physiotherapists (temporary service only)	From existing establishment	From existing resources
Core Physiotherapy Service	Improved patient information on web pages	From existing establishment	From existing resources
Core Physiotherapy Service (MSK)	Development of patient information leaflets on a range of clinical conditions- progressing to audio information package and video information package using powtoon.	From existing establishment	From existing resources

Request 5: Please confirm or deny if there have been any discontinued posts and/or services in the last year (April 2020 to end of March 2021). If confirmed, please provide details.

No discontinued services or posts.

Routine face to face outpatients were paused during both the first and second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and were replaced with telephone and video appointments. These have now been reinstated but capacity is limited due to social distancing restrictions and available treatment space.

Request 6: Please confirm or deny if there has been any increase or decrease in demand for physiotherapy services in the last year (April 2020 to end of March 2021). If confirmed, please provide details.

Mainstream Physiotherapy inpatients: there has been an increase in the demand for inpatient physiotherapy following the opening of the Grange University Hospital in November 2020.

Mainstream physiotherapy outpatients: there has been a decrease in outpatient referrals received from 51,086 in 2019 – 2020 to 19,590 in 2020 – 2021. This represents a decrease of 62% which is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also the service introduced a direct access service (Primary Care Calls (PCC)) which received 9341 referrals. Therefore the actual reduction of referrals is 57%.

We are currently unable to provide any inpatient data.

Newport CRT: There has been a gradual increase in demand for Newport CRT physiotherapy over the past year which appears to be linked with the lifting of each lockdown. This increase in demand over the year has resulted in longer waiting lists than usual.

The demand has increased from GPs and other physiotherapy services who were not undertaking the pre-COVID volume face to face clinics and requesting the CRT Physiotherapy service to visit people at home instead of them attending clinic appointments.

CNRS (Community Neuro Rehabilitation Service): There was an increase in demand during the first wave of COVID-19, this was supported by the temporary engagement of an agency physio and redeployment of three physiotherapists and a physiotherapy technician from suspended outpatient services.

Torfaen CRT: Unfortunately there is no data captured specifically for Physio demand.

Frailty portal referrals for Reablement (Physio, OT, Reablement therapist are combined) are as follows:

April 2019 – March 2020 = Total referrals 1,871

April 2020 – March 2021 = Total referrals 1,566

Caerphilly CRT: Increase in referrals due to COVID-19

Request 7: Please provide details of the level of budget increase or reduction made by the physiotherapy service in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in the last financial year (April 2020 to end of March 2021) and what this is as a percentage of the physiotherapy budget.

There was an increase of 0.61% in the core physiotherapy budget.

Torfaen CRT: The physiotherapy budget was increased by £22,208 (15.66%).

Request 8: Please provide details of projected % budgetary savings to be made for this financial year (April 2021 to end of March 2022).

Core physiotherapy service: 1.58%

CRTs: All CRTs are required to achieve a 10% budget saving.

CNRS (Community Neuro Rehabilitation Service): 1.58%

Torfaen CRT 3%

Request 9: Please provide details of spend on agency/locum staff in the last year April 2020 to end of March 2021.

Area	Expenditure
Core physiotherapy service	
Mainstream physiotherapy budget	£4,657
Covid costs (were reimbursed to core physiotherapy budget)	£10,340
Other multi-disciplinary services	
CNRS Community Neuro Rehab Service)	£81,495
Newport CRT:	£99,197
Caerphilly CRT	£100,000