

In accordance with the FOI Act, could you please supply me with the following information?

For the first full week of September 2022, what was the % of the baseline recommendation of WTE consultants available to staff A&E department(s) within your health board area?

The Clinical Futures model of care delivered in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) has created an emergency care system that is unique within Wales and different to more traditional models that are provided across the United Kingdom. The Grange University Hospital (GUH) is a specialist Critical Care Centre (CCC) with an Emergency Department (ED) and a co-located Children's Emergency Assessment Unit (CEAU) which is central to the Health Boards urgent care service offer for our population. The Health Board also has four (4) Minor Injury Units that operate in synergy with the ED, these are located at peripheral sites across our statutory boundary, to support the concept of care closer to home.

This model of care is relatively new and has been in place since the opening of the Grange University Hospital (GUH) in November 2020, during which time attendance numbers have been altered both due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions in place due to subsequent lockdowns. Current predicted figures would suggest that the emergency care system in Health Board will have 186,000 attendances annually across all five (5) sites, with c.93,000 attending the GUH.

These numbers place the emergency care system in the Health Board in the realms of a very large ED, according to the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) Consultant Staffing in Emergency Departments document 2018, and a recommended baseline staffing level of 34-48 whole time equivalent (WTE) Emergency Medicine Consultants, depending on the complexity of the system and the number of areas supervised by the Emergency Medicine Consultants.

In the first week of September 2022, the WTE number of ED Consultants who were available in the Health Board was 21.55 or 63.38% - 44.90% of the number recommended by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM). The Department is currently actively recruiting to ED vacancies.