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Addysg a Gwella Iechyd
Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

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Our Ref: DLIB/FOI/22-01-26

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, received on 22 January 2026, reference number FOI 22/01/26. I can confirm that Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) has completed a search of its records and has established that it does hold information falling within the confines of your request.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following recorded information held by the Trust regarding balance/vestibular services.

For the purposes of this request, “audiologist” includes clinical scientists, healthcare scientists, and practitioners working in audiology at any grade (including those specialising in balance/vestibular assessment).

1. Balance / vestibular service provision:

- a) **How many balance or vestibular clinics does the Trust currently operate within the audiology department alone and within the ENT department**
- b) **Where balance/vestibular assessments are provided within a wider service rather than via a standalone clinic, please indicate this.**

HEIW is a Special Health Authority in Wales and does not provide direct patient care. HEIW is the strategic workforce body for NHS Wales, responsible for planning, educating, training, and developing the healthcare workforce. Therefore HEIW does not operate balance or vestibular clinics.

In order to comply with our duty to advise and assist, as set out in section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we suggest you contact Health Boards and NHS Trusts directly who may be able to provide this information. Please see below the link to the Welsh Government website ‘Health in Wales’ which provides information and links to the Health Boards and NHS Trusts within NHS Wales: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/structure>

2. Employment of audiologists:

- a) **How many audiologists are currently employed by the Trust that are active in offering vestibular assessment at the date of this request (headcount and FTE, if held)?**

None – HEIW has no employed audiologists that are active in offering vestibular assessments.

- b) **How many audiologists are currently employed by the Trust that are active in offering vestibular rehabilitation at the date of this request (headcount and FTE, if held)?**

None – HEIW has no employed audiologists that are active in offering vestibular rehabilitation.

3. Workforce needs – current:

- a) **Does the Trust hold assessment, workforce plan, or internal analysis relating to the number of audiologists required to meet current service demand? If so, please provide that assessment.**

HEIW does not hold specific assessment, workforce plan or internal analysis relating to the number of audiologists required to meet current service demand.

The HEIW NHS Wales Healthcare Science Career Framework details on pages 27-28 a narrative from the profession in Wales on the patient facing role and scientific services delivered, and the

novel service models and improvements to the quality of audiology care in NHS Wales. Details can be found on the HEIW website: [Development for Healthcare Science Professionals - HEIW](#)

Our work to improve healthcare science workforce data quality is explained on the HEIW Website: [Healthcare science workforce planning - HEIW](#).

4. Workforce needs – future

- a) **Does the Trust hold any assessment, workforce plan, or projection relating to future audiology workforce needs? for example, 3 years, 5 years, or 10 years). If so, please provide that/those assessments.**

HEIW develops an annual Education and Training Plan each year, based on requests received by Health Boards and Trusts across Wales. This includes requirements for the audiology workforce in Wales, referenced directly (PTP Audiology, PTP Audiology (part time) and HE Certificate Audiological practice) and indirectly (Clinical Scientist Training Programme, Higher Specialist Training, Equivalence Routes to Registration Funding, Enhanced/Advanced/Consultant Practice Education, Work Based Learning). Details about the Education and Training Plan can be found on the HEIW Website, [Education and Training Plan \(ETP\) - HEIW](#) and the 2025-26 plan can be found by clicking the following link: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/etp-2025-2026/>

The audiology workforce in NHS Wales are referenced in the HEIW [Strategic Workforce Plan for Primary Care](#) directly in relation to first contact assessments and wax management, and indirectly regarding multi-professional team-based models of care.

Whilst not referenced specifically, audiologists as part of the healthcare science workforce are included in the HEIW [Diagnostics Workforce Plan](#) short-to-medium-term actions to build diagnostic capacity, support digital and regional transformation.

HEIW provide annual presentations or workshops on long term workforce visioning for healthcare science professions at the national [Healthcare Science Network](#) meetings.

5. Long-term planning

- a) **Does the Trust hold any assessment or modelling of audiology (including balance/vestibular) workforce or service needs looking ahead 10 years or more? If so, please provide that/those assessments.**

HEIW does not at present hold any specific assessment or modelling of audiology workforce or service needs looking ahead 10 years or more.

However, audiologists, as part of the healthcare science workforce are included in the overarching 10 year workforce strategy for health and social care. Information about this can be found on the HEIW website: [10 year workforce strategy for health and social care - HEIW](#). The work being completed by HEIW will support the ability of the services in Wales to undertake these analysis and assessment in the future.

