

The FOI Question

Regarding the four areas of investment of funds that you have cited in your response I have the following questions of clarification:

1. For complex polypectomy service, Abdominal Aortic Aneurism Screening, HPV testing and establishing the national cytology processing centre

i) How much has been invested by Public Health Wales excluding new funding from Welsh Government?

ii) When was the investment in question 1(i) made?

iii) Is the investment in 1(i) a non recurring investment, and if so when was it withdrawn?

iv) What is the total current annual budget?

For all of the above questions please state the information to answers (i) to (iv) separately for each of the investment areas that you have cited i.e. complex polypectomy service, Abdominal Aortic Aneurism Screening, HPV testing and establishing the national cytology processing centre,

2. For the complex polypectomy service there is an amount included in the spreadsheets that you previously sent. Is this in addition to the investment amount noted in question 1(i)?

3. The Newborn Hearing Screening Wales benchmarking exercise

i) How much will be deducted from the Agreements with other Health Bodies if the benchmarking exercise is implemented?

ii) What will the funds be used for if the benchmarking exercise is implemented?

Q1: Complex polyp service:

The complex polyp pilot was initiated by Public Health Wales in October 2011. It aims to improve the management of a small group of bowel screening participants with complex benign colorectal polyps which are not suitable for endoscopic removal in Local Assessment Centres. Prior to the establishment of the service, these participants would have received open surgical bowel resection in their home Local Health Board. The pilot service comprises:

- an expert advisory panel which assesses referrals from local colonoscopists and advises on best management.
- A complex polypectomy service based in Cardiff & Vale Health Board where suitable cases can have their polyps removed endoscopically.

How much has been invested by Public Health Wales excluding new funding from Welsh Government?

A. £304k has been invested by Public Health Wales.

Q. ii) When was the investment in question 1(i) made?

A. the investment began in 2012/13.

Q.iii) Is the investment in 1(i) a non recurring investment, and if so when was it withdrawn?

A: £140k invested non-recurringly by Public Health Wales in 2012/13 and 2013-14.

£41k has been invested recurringly by Public Health Wales since 2012/ 13. This element is still provided.

Q. iv) What is the total current annual budget?

A. The current budget is £180,000

2. For the complex polypectomy service there is an amount included in the spreadsheets that you previously sent. Is this in addition to the investment amount noted in question 1(i)?

A. The amounts included in the spreadsheets previously sent are not in addition to the amount included in 1(i).

HPV testing

HPV testing has been rolled out in a phased manner since 2014-15.

- Test of cure for women newly discharged from colposcopy was introduced in October 2014
- Test of cure for women on surveillance following previous colposcopy was introduced in October 2015
- Triage for women with low grade abnormality will be introduced early in 2016-17.

It should be noted that the development of the national cytology processing centre referred to below has enabled the introduction of HPV testing at marginal cost of consumables only. Conversion costs in the English Cervical Screening programme exceeded CSW costs by a factor of four.

i) How much has been invested by Public Health Wales excluding new funding from Welsh Government?

A. Public Health Wales has invested £35k recurringly in HPV test of cure annually since 2014-15 ie £70k to date.

Additionally Public Health Wales has identified £80k as investment for the completion of the test of cure roll out and triage implementation in 2016-17. This is not recurring funding

Q. ii) When was the investment in question 1(i) made?

A. See above: £35k recurring since 2013-14
£80k non-recurring identified for 2016-17

Q. iii) Is the investment in 1(i) a non recurring investment, and if so when was it withdrawn?

A. Recurring investment

Q. iv) What is the total current annual budget

A. The total annual budget for 2016-17 is still being refined

Abdominal Aortic Aneurism Screening

The Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme was launched in May 2013. The programme is relatively young, and not yet in steady state.

The workload is projected to increase over its first ten years of operation as men with small and moderate aneurysms are added to the surveillance workload. Modelling suggests that the number of surveillance scans required will more than double in the next five years.

Public Health Wales underwrote £289,000 of programme funding prior to the launch. Since programme launch, we have sought efficiencies as with all of our services. This will enable us to fund the additional workload from surveillance scanning

Q. i) How much has been invested by Public Health Wales excluding new

funding from Welsh Government?

A. £36k

Q. ii) When was the investment in question 1(i) made?

A. Investment was made by Public Health Wales in 2013/14.

Q. iii) Is the investment in 1(i) a non recurring investment, and if so when was it withdrawn?

A. The funding was withdrawn in 2014/15.

Q. iv) What is the total current annual budget

A. The total annual budget is £1,083k.

National cytology processing centre

The national cytology processing centre was opened in 2010 In Magden Park, Llantrisant. It was developed on the same site as the existing national bowel screening laboratory, and many staff work across both services. As well as carrying out all of the cytology processing for Wales, the laboratory also provides cytology screening and reporting for the populations served by Cwm Taf and Cardiff & Vale Health Boards and the

national bowel screening laboratory. This co-dependence makes answering the questions difficult. However we have done so to the best of our ability.

It should be noted that as stated in the question about HPV the development of the national centre has allowed the introduction of HPV testing in Wales in a much less costly fashion than in England.

Q.i) How much has been invested by Public Health Wales excluding new funding from Welsh Government?

A. It is difficult to apportion the amount of funding that Public Health Wales has invested in the processing laboratory alone because the bowel screening laboratory and cytology processing laboratory are now jointly run. However explicit additional annual transport and logistical costs of £150,000 can be identified.

Q.ii) When was the investment in question 1(i) made?

A. The investment has been made annually since 2011/12

Q. iii) Is the investment in 1(i) a non recurring investment, and if so when was it withdrawn?

A. It is not a non recurring investment, ie the investment is recurring and has not been withdrawn

Q. iv) What is the total current annual budget?

The annual budget for the national cytology processing laboratory is not all kept separately from the Bowel Screening laboratory and cervical screening laboratory costs and therefore this question cannot be answered.

The Newborn Hearing Screening Wales benchmarking exercise

Q. i) How much will be deducted from the Agreements with other Health Bodies if the benchmarking exercise is implemented?

Public Health Wales carried out a benchmarking exercise of Newborn Hearing Screening Wales Assessments in 2014-15. The aim was to provide an equitable and adequate level of funding to Health Boards for the service provided.

Following feedback from Health Boards, the Chief Executive of Public Health Wales wrote to Health Board Chief Executives on 14 March 2016 to inform them that the exercise would be revisited in 2016-17 prior to any alteration of funding flows. Therefore this question is no longer applicable.

Q. ii) What will the funds be used for if the benchmarking exercise is implemented?

Not applicable