Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

Date request received: March 13th
Date information is due to be sent: April 10th

Information requested:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Assembly Member for Aberconwy: Janet Finch-Saunders.

I would like to submit the following Freedom of Information Request on the Member’s behalf:

1. How many nursing places have been unfilled since 21 March 2016, and how many of the vacancies need to be filled to comply with the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016?
2. How many nurse staffing hours were not filled due to vacancies throughout each of following years: 2014, 2015, 2016?
3. For how long was the longest vacancy unfilled?

Information provided for the answer

1. How many nursing places have been unfilled since 21 March 2016, and how many of the vacancies need to be filled to comply with the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016?

Section 25B of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016 currently relates to adult acute medical and surgical inpatient wards. Public Health Wales does not provide any inpatient wards. Section 25(A) does state that all NHS trusts who provide nursing services must have regard to the importance of providing those services to such extent as it considers necessary to meet all reasonable requirements.

Since 21 March 2016 there is only one vacancy that remains unfilled, and this has only been since February 2017. This has been advertised but at present we are unable to fill this highly specialised senior nurse position. This position does not deliver direct care.

There were two other posts that were vacant for a couple of months while the recruitment process was undertaken. Both of these vacancies are now filled.

2. How many nurse staffing hours were not filled due to vacancies
throughout each of following years: 2014, 2015, 2016?

As listed above there is currently one post that remains vacant (37.5 hours/week). The other posts were both full time vacancies (37.5 hours/week).

This information is not available for 2014, 2015 as this information is not routinely collected.

3. For how long was the longest vacancy unfilled?

The vacancy listed above has been vacant since February 2017.