

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.9731.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) services
<b>Date of Request:</b>	25 August 2022

**Requested:**

I am writing to obtain information, under the Freedom of Information Act, about your Trust's funding of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) services they provided.

To outline my query as clearly as possible, I am requesting:

- How much the Trust has spent on CAM services for the following financial years: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22. This includes salaries for those employed to carry out these services, costs of medicine, equipment and any additional costs involved.
- A list of all services provided under CAM.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of the Finance ledger entries, to identify any of the information requested, as it is not recorded centrally. However, the nature of your request is also too broad and the information being requested would not be identifiable from a search of CAM, as any information is more likely to be recorded under the name of the specific treatment, should it be held.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FoIA. The UHB therefore suggests you resubmit a more specific request, which details the precise treatments or therapies you are interested in. This will allow the UHB to conduct a refined search of its records, to identify any information which may fulfil your request.