

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.12439.23
<b>Subject:</b>	Forensic Mental Health wards
<b>Date of Request:</b>	15 August 2023

**Requested:**

1. For each forensic mental health ward within the Health Board please disclose the number of shifts in the last 12 months where clinical staffing levels fell below recommended safe levels.
2. Furthermore, could you please provide me with the current guidelines or policies in place that specify the recommended safe staffing levels for clinical staff in forensic wards within the health board?
3. What is the number of patients admitted to each forensic mental health ward within the Health Board over the past 12 months? Please provide a breakdown by month.
4. What is the total number of patients currently in each forensic mental health ward within the Health Board as of Monday, August 14, 2023?

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that staffing levels have not fallen below the recommended safe level across its Forensic Mental Health wards during the most recent twelve (12) month period.
2. The UHB does not hold the information exactly as requested, as it does not have a policy specifically relating to staffing levels on Forensic Mental Health Wards. However, it does have a policy that covers nursing staff levels for adult acute services across the UHB. This policy is currently being reviewed and will be revised to widen the scope to all nursing services, rather than just acute; it will be an overarching policy which will state the principles that must/should be followed when reviewing nurse staffing in any nursing service but will not make reference to specific services. A copy of the policy has been provided at Attachment 1.
3. The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, broken down by month, due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

However, the UHB can confirm that six (6) patients were admitted to its Low Secure Unit (LSU), during the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

4. The UHB confirms that there were fourteen (14) patients in its LSU, as at 14 August 2023.