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| Reference: | FOI.11230.23 |
| Subject: | Use of restrictive practices |
| Date of Request: | 9 March 2023 |

Requested:

This request is in relation to recorded instances of restrictive practices within mental health inpatient settings managed by your Local Health Board.

We recognise that restrictive practices may be recorded in a number of ways. This request relates exclusively to electronically recorded instances of restrictive practices, for example, those recorded within the Datix electronic records management system.

Please could you provide me with the following information in relation to restrictive practice within mental health inpatient settings for the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22:

- a) **The total number of recorded instances of restrictive practices.**
- b) **The type of restrictive practice used (e.g. physical, mechanical or chemical restraint, or the isolation of a patient);**
- c) **If physical restraint was used, was the individual restrained in a prone or supine position;**
- d) The reason(s) for the use of restrictive practice;
- e) Where (e.g. which ward) and when the restrictive practice was used;
- f) **The length of the restrictive practice;**
- g) The known impact on the individual, including any injuries, and any risks to their physical or mental wellbeing;
- h) **The protected characteristics of the individual, including age, gender, sex, disability, (broken down by impairment type, and ethnicity);**
- i) The outcome of any incident review, including any measures that will be taken to avoid or minimise restrictive practices and the risk of harm in future;
- j) The individual's involvement in the review;
- k) A record to confirm that the relevant family members and carers have been informed and when this happened;
- l) **Incidents of the use of mechanical restraint;**
- m) **Incidents of seclusion.**

I would like the areas highlighted in bold be prioritised

Please could you provide this data in a csv or xls format.

Clarification

To clarify, the request below covers both adults and children and young people within the remit of the health board.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, including those identified as priority, 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 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the data requested at b, d, e, g, h, i, j, k, l and m (which includes the areas prioritised), the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of each incident record and these would need to be scrutinised, to identify the information that would fulfil your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

Please note:- Due to issues when the UHB transferred to a new version of the Datix system in April 2021, some of the data requested may not have been captured for the 2021/22 financial year. Again, this would require a manual search of recorded incidents, which would exceed the appropriate limit.

However, the UHB can confirm that there were four hundred and nine (409) incidents of the use of restrictive practice, during the 2017/18 to 2021/2022 financial years.

Therefore, to provide you with the exact information being requested, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

409 @ 15 minutes per item = 102.25 hours
102.25 hours @ £25 per hour = £2,556.25

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 the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds, as recorded across its two (2) Datix incident reporting systems, for parts a, c and f within attachment 1.