

Reference:	FOI.7877.22
Subject:	Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments
Date of Request:	4 January 2022

Requested:

Please disclose the following information by the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021.

1. How many beds are available for patients in A&E departments across your health board?
Please give a breakdown for each year and each hospital.
2. How many patients were unable to be seen within the recommended 15 minutes, from when they arrived by ambulance at the A&E department. Please provide a monthly breakdown.
3. How many patients waited: more than 5 hours; more than 10 hours; more than 15 hours to be seen from when they arrive at the A&E department by ambulance.
4. How many beds were taken up by patients who were ready but unable to be discharged?
5. What is the longest period of time a patient who was ready to be discharged, has remained/taken up a bed.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 4 and 5, 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.

The Welsh Government suspended the reporting of Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs) for 2020/21, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and this suspension is currently ongoing. Therefore, in order to provide you with the information requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of patient records to identify and collate the data, as it is not recorded centrally.

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.

As some of the information requested is already within the public domain, and accessible via another means, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA.

Historical Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC) data is available on the Welsh Government (WG) StatsWales website, which provides the information requested for the calendar years 2018 and 2019, which can be accessed via the link below:

[Delays by organisation and percent of NHS beds \(gov.wales\)](#)

1. The UHB confirms that information on the UHB's bed numbers is also available on the WG StatsWales website.

For ease of reference please click on the attached link which will take you directly to the StatsWales webpage.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/NHS-Beds/nhsbeds-by-organisation-site>

2. & 3. The UHB provides, within the tables below and overleaf, the number of patients that were not seen within 15 minutes and the number that waited more than 5, 10 and 15 hours, from arrival by ambulance in A&E Departments, by month, for the calendar years 2018 to 2021.

	2018				2019			
	<15 mins	<5 hours	<10 hours	<15 hours	<15 mins	<5 hours	<10 hours	<15 hours
January	1,174	4	1	0	1,319	6	1	0
February	1,121	4	1	0	1,075	3	0	0
March	1,285	12	0	1	1,329	3	0	0
April	1,087	7	0	0	1,283	2	0	0
May	1,085	8	0	0	1,046	11	0	0
June	987	3	0	0	984	13	1	0
July	1,183	49	1	0	1,077	11	0	0
August	922	3	0	1	1,143	10	0	0
September	1,008	9	0	0	1,254	18	1	0
October	964	3	0	0	1,347	31	0	0
November	940	1	0	0	1,514	27	0	0
December	1,085	1	0	0	1,738	38	0	0

	2020				2021			
	<15 mins	<5 hours	<10 hours	<15 hours	<15 mins	<5 hours	<10 hours	<15 hours
January	1,728	22	0	0	1,267	7	0	0
February	1,256	2	0	0	1,045	4	0	0
March	1,248	7	0	0	1,423	18	1	0
April	950	0	0	0	1,210	24	0	0
May	983	1	0	0	1,402	17	0	0
June	903	4	1	0	1,388	37	0	0
July	1,016	2	1	0	1,410	25	0	0
August	994	17	0	0	1,565	36	1	0
September	1,034	14	0	0	1,344	23	0	0
October	1,104	8	1	0	1,477	28	0	0
November	1,217	8	0	2	1,706	50	1	1
December	1,243	5	1	0	1,566	54	0	0