

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.4949.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Anti-depressants/counselling figures
<b>Date of Request:</b>	8 January 2021

**Requested:**

1. The figures for how many people in Wales received anti-depressants for the last 3 months and the same figures for the last 5 years.
2. Figures for how many are on referrals/waiting lists for counselling/therapy services on the NHS for the last 3 months and the same figures for the last 5 years.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

The “appropriate level” 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 provide you with the number of patients that received anti-depressants within Primary Care, the UHB would need to cross reference the dispensed medications with the patient records to identify the information requested.

Additionally, the data for Psychological Therapies was not recorded centrally for the calendar years 2015 to 2017, therefore the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Psychological Therapies patient records to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request.

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.

Under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance.

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, the number of prescriptions issued within Primary and Secondary Care and the number of Secondary Care patients issued anti-depressants, during the months October to December, for the calendar years 2015 to 2020.

<b>October to December</b>	<b>Primary Care prescriptions issued</b>	<b>Secondary Care prescriptions issued</b>	<b>Number of Secondary Care patients</b>
2015	146,617	346	1,527
2016	150,891	265	1,629
2017	161,052	323	1,690
2018	168,624	346	1,656
2019	178,152	269	1,727
2020	63,619	247	1,562

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients on the Psychological Therapies waiting lists, during the months October to December, for the calendar years 2015 to 2020.

<b>October to December</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
2018	4,040
2019	4,471
2020	5,087