

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.15029.24
<b>Subject:</b>	Asthma and winter pressures
<b>Date of Request:</b>	8 August 2024

**Requested:**

Asthma

1. What services does your health board provide for people with severe or suspected severe asthma?
2. How often do those services attend meetings with other similar services in other health boards?
3. How many patients in your health board area are diagnosed with either severe or uncontrolled asthma?

Winter pressures

4. What provisions is your health board making to ensure it does not receive additional unnecessary respiratory admissions during the Winter season.

**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 limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the 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.

As the information requested for question 3 is not collated and recorded centrally, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Difficult Asthma Clinic (DAC) patient records, to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request.

The UHB can confirm that there are currently three hundred and thirty-six (336) patients on the DAC caseload. Therefore, to provide you with the exact information being requested, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

336 @ 15 minutes per item = 84 hours  
84 hours @ £25 per hour = £2,100.00

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that a severe and DAC takes place every Friday in Glangwili General Hospital (GGH); two (2) weeks per month the clinic is consultant and nurse-led, with two (2) respiratory consultants and up to three (3) asthma Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and the other two (2)

weeks it is CNS led. Additionally, the UHB has Asthma Interface Specialist Nurses working within Primary Care to support people with difficult asthma and provide support to the DAC.

2. The UHB confirms that it attends an All-Wales Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting with the Welsh Difficult Asthma Group (WeDAG) on a monthly basis to discuss cases and management, including biologic monoclonal antibody treatments.
3. Section 12 exemption applied.
4. The UHB confirms that it has a broad range of Respiratory CNS across community, Primary and Secondary care that work together with the support of the Respiratory consultants to prevent and reduce hospital admissions. If admission is needed, they also assist with reducing the length of stay.