

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.18870.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Asylum seekers and refugees
<b>Date of Request:</b>	18 November 2025

**Requested:**

For the years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

1. Number of primary care practices claiming enhanced payments for asylum seekers and refugees.
2. Number of payments claimed for each practice.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), to part of question 2 as disclosing the individual GP Practice names and the payments claimed would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company. Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services. GP Practices in NHS Wales are managed independently providing services under contract to Health Boards and should therefore expect some information about their activities to be disclosed.

**Against Disclosure:** Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and cause substantial harm to the individual GP Practices as it would disclose their income, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to continue to provide essential services, especially in this case where it relates to asylum seekers and refugees.

**Decision:** It has therefore been decided that providing the names of the GP Practices and the claims brought for question 2 is commercially confidential in nature and releasing the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, would undermine the UHB's relationship with the GP Practices should some of their income be disclosed. The disclosure of this information could cause

unrest within communities, where it has previously been well documented that there is dissatisfaction in the provision of healthcare and services to refugees and asylum seekers. It could additionally cause GP Practices to reconsider their decision to provide enhanced services, which are essential to patients and communities.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of GP Practices within the UHB's geographical area that claimed enhanced payments for asylum seekers and refugees, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2023/24	33
2024/25	33

2. The UHB provides within the tables below overleaf, the number of enhanced payment claims made by the GP Practices, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Number of GP Practices	Number of claims
<b>2023/24</b>	27	12
	4	11
	1	10
	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>

Financial year	Number of GP Practices	Number of claims
<b>2024/25</b>	30	12
	2	11
	1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>