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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.11137.23   |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) statistics |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 27 February 2023   |

**Requested:**

I am emailing today to request any statistics you keep regarding ADHD services within your area.

1. How many complaints were made between 2017-2023? If this information is held, could it be broken down year by year?
2. Do you keep statistics on how many people were refused an ADHD assessment when they requested one? If so, could this also be broken down year by year from 2017-2023?
3. How many ADHD assessments were carried out between 2017 - 2023? Could this information also be broken down year by year?
4. What is your current policy on ADHD assessments, and is there a specialist ADHD team? Or are your ADHD services currently being run through the community mental health team?

**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 the data requested for the 2017 and 2018 calendar years for question 1, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of each incident record. These would then need to be scrutinised, to identify the information that would fulfil your request, as incidents relating to ADHD prior to 2019 were not coded separately within the UHB's Datix incident reporting system.

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 below.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of ADHD related complaints recorded across the UHB's two (2) Datix Incident Reporting systems, during the 2019 to 2022 calendar years.

| <b>Calendar year</b> | <b>Number of complaints</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2017                 | Not available               |
| 2018                 | Not available               |
| 2019                 | *                           |

|      |    |
|------|----|
| 2020 | 10 |
| 2021 | 8  |
| 2022 | *  |

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact numbers, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data, or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

2. The UHB does not record statistics on the number of patients that were refused an ADHD assessment when one was requested. However, the UHB can confirm that no appropriately referred person would be refused an ADHD assessment.
3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of adult ADHD assessments undertaken, during the 2017 to 2022 calendar years.

| Calendar year | Number of adult assessments |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 2017          | 6                           |
| 2018          | 15                          |
| 2019          | 45                          |
| 2020          | 48                          |
| 2021          | 65                          |
| 2022          | 170                         |

Please note:- The UHB is unable to provide the data for Children and Young People (CYP) as ADHD in CYP is diagnosed by more than one single assessment.

4. The UHB confirms that it has a Specialist Adult ADHD team. However, as with other Adult ADHD Services across Wales and the UK, it is an emerging service which is still in the early stages of development.

The Adult ADHD Service has been identified as a priority area for development within the UHB, and additional resources to further develop the service to meet the diagnosis and prescribing need is currently being secured from Welsh Government (WG). The UHB is growing and developing the service with additional input from specialist clinicians, in order to increase the availability of assessments and appropriate treatments, including non-medical interventions that are offered to those affected and their significant others. It is envisaged that the service will grow over time as the case is made for extra resources.

Within the Paediatric service, all children and young people and/or their families have been contacted by the waiting list support service to offer generic support whilst on the waiting list.

A review of the demand for community Paediatrics is currently being undertaken, with initiatives being considered to reduce the current waiting list position – including those awaiting a review for ADHD. Additional staff have been recruited, to include specialist ADHD nurses, Speciality and Associate Specialist (SAS) grade doctors and non-medical prescribers, who are working to support with the assessment and waits for ADHD, along with the support of electronic prescribing.