

Reference:	FOI.19234.26
Subject:	Blood cancer
Date of Request:	6 January 2026

Requested:

I would like to request the following information for your healthcare trust during the period 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2025:

1. Annual number of patients diagnosed with blood cancers per year overall, and by subtype:
 - Lymphomas (C81-86)
 - Malignant immunoproliferative diseases (C88)
 - Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms (C90)
 - Leukaemia (C91-C95)
 - Unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissues (C96)
2. The number of blood cancer clinical trials available, including active trials that are recruiting and trials that are not actively recruiting.
3. Annual number of patients who were enrolled in interventional or observational clinical trials related to these blood cancers per year.
4. The scientific title, clinical trial registration number, phase (I/II/III/IV/other), opening and closing recruitment dates, number recruited at this trust, and location of each trial related to blood cancer.
5. The current number of dedicated research staff (e.g. research nurses, research practitioners, study coordinators etc.) assigned to haematological clinical trials.
6. If available, annual counts of invitations/offers made to eligible patients to consider trial participation.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for question 1, 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 (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 Clinical Portal (WCP) houses this information; however, it is not yet fully up to date for the period requested due to a backlog of cancer forms that require inputting to the system. Therefore, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of cancer patient records for the requested period, to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore that 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, which can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request further. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of all cancer patient records to be undertaken to identify information that may fulfil this part of your request.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with some of the requested information as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding the following details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA:

- The figures in the tables for questions 1 and 4 have been replaced with an asterisk (*) due to the low number of cases (less than 5)
- Some of the information requested for questions 3 and 6, broken down by calendar year, due to the low number of cases (less than 5)

It is not within the expectation of these individuals that their personal data would be released into the public domain. This information is classed as personal data of a third party. Therefore, it is being withheld in accordance with the exemption set out in section 40(2) of the FoIA, by virtue of section 40(3)(a) of the FoIA, which permits a public authority to withhold personal data other than the requestor's where the disclosure would breach Data Protection principles.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 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 DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.

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. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA applied. However, under Section 16, the UHB provides within the tables below and overleaf, the number of inpatients with a recorded diagnosis of blood cancer, by type, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration (WPAS) during the 2015 to 2025 calendar years.

Cancer type	2015	2016	2017	2018
Leukaemia	955	1,725	1,544	1,555
Lymphomas	973	1,316	1,326	1,122
Malignant immunoproliferative diseases	69	135	94	121
Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms	1,033	1,196	1,246	1,281
Unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissues	*	0	*	*

Cancer type	2019	2020	2021	2022
Leukaemia	1,808	1,570	1,845	1,712
Lymphomas	982	1,056	1,084	1,032
Malignant immunoproliferative diseases	94	71	64	95
Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms	1,326	1,044	1,539	1,778
Unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissues	0	*	22	*

Cancer type	2023	2024	2025	Total
Leukaemia	1,268	1,880	2,153	18,015
Lymphomas	1,048	1,125	1,367	12,431
Malignant immunoproliferative diseases	162	119	106	1,130
Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms	1,907	2,038	2,224	16,612
Unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissues	*	9	*	52

- The UHB confirms that it has participated in two (2) blood cancer clinical trials, during the 2015 to 2025 calendar years.
- An exemption under Section 40 of the FoIA applied. However, the UHB confirms that it has not participated in any observational blood cancer clinical trials during the 2015 to 2025 calendar years.

However, the UHB can confirm that there was a total of five (5) participants in interventional blood cancer clinical trials during the 2015 and 2016 calendar years, but there were no participants during the 2017 to 2025 calendar years.

- The UHB provides the information requested for the two (2) blood cancer clinical trials within the table below.

Scientific title	Front-Line therapy in CLL: Assessment of Ibrutinib + Rituximab (FLAIR)	Tackling Early Morbidity and Mortality in Myeloma (TEAMM): Assessing the benefit of antibiotic prophylaxis and its effect on healthcare associated infections
Registration number	EudraCT ref: 2013-001944-76 IRAS ref: 126738	EudraCT ref: 2011-000366-35 IRAS ref: 67602
Phase	3	3
Opening date	24 March 2015	22 May 2013
Closing date	31 December 2024	31 December 2024
Number recruited	*	*
Location of trial	Glangwili General Hospital	Withybush General Hospital

- The UHB has no dedicated research staff assigned to haematological clinical trials.
- An exemption under Section 40 of the FoIA applied. However, the UHB can confirm that a total of six (6) invitations were made to eligible patients for the FLAIR clinical trial during the 2016

and 2017 calendar years and six (6) invitations were made to eligible patients for the TEAMM clinical trial during the 2014 and 2015 calendar years.