

Reference:	FOI.15282.24
Subject:	Botox treatments
Date of Request:	16 September 2024

Requested:

This is an information request relating to Botox treatments administered by the NHS.

Please include the following information for 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24:

1. Total expenditure by the NHS on Botox treatments (Botulinum toxin injections) for all purposes, including cosmetic and medical treatments, for each financial year.
2. Total number of people that received Botox treatments for each financial year
3. A breakdown of the spending on Botox treatments by medical necessity (e.g., for conditions such as chronic migraines, muscle spasms, excessive sweating, etc.) versus cosmetic purposes (if any such spending is applicable). In this breakdown include where on the body the treatment was administered.

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.

In order to provide you with the data requested for question 3, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patients’ records that received Botox treatment, to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

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 provides within the table below, the expenditure on Botox treatments, for any condition, during the 2020/21 to 2023/24 financial years.

Financial year	Expenditure
2020/21	£51,003.95
2021/22	£103,607.94
2022/23	£121,573.67
2023/24	£139,073.85

Please note: - the expenditure covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2021 is not currently available and therefore, is not included in the data provided for the 2021/22 financial year.

2. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients that received Botox treatments, for any condition, during the 2020/21 to 2023/24 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2020/21	125
2021/22	190
2022/23	188
2023/24	240

3. Section 12 exemption applied.