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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.18037.25       |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Cancer medications |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 8 August 2025      |

**Requested:**

Is it possible for you to tell me the number of patients within your Health Board who are:

1. Currently prescribed selpercatinib in total;
2. Currently prescribed selpercatinib specifically for thyroid cancer only (not medullary thyroid cancer);
3. Currently prescribed selpercatinib for medullary thyroid cancer, please?
4. Diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer and being currently treated with cabozantinib
5. Diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer and not being treated with a TKI currently because their treatment pathway has not yet included TKI prescribing.
6. Diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer but currently not prescribed a TKI for another reason.

Please include any patients who have had their TKI prescription temporarily paused for reasons including to review side effect impacts, or because they are awaiting/have recently had an operation for example, within the relevant group as though the pause was not happening.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you some of the information requested for questions 5 and 6, 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 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, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of the medical records of thyroid cancer patients to identify if any are/are not being treated with Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKI) and the reasons, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that it has identified two hundred and forty-four (244) patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer, it is estimated that a manual search of these records would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

244 @ 15 minutes per item = 61 hours  
61 hours @ £25 per hour = £1,525.00

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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, this 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 thyroid cancer patient records to be undertaken to identify information that may fulfil your request.

1. The UHB confirms that it is not currently prescribing Selpercatinib to any patient, irrelevant of diagnosis.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable
4. The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. 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.

5. & 6. An exemption under Section 12 has been applied.