

Reference:	FOI.1511.19
Subject:	Cannabis diagnosed admissions
Date of Request:	5 September 2019

Requested

1. Please can you tell me how many new patients were referred to your trust with a primary or secondary diagnosis recorded for cannabis use in the years:
 - a. 2015
 - b. 2016
 - c. 2017
 - d. 2018
 - e. 2019 to date

2. Please can you tell me the count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis recorded for cannabis use in the years:
 - a. 2015
 - b. 2016
 - c. 2017
 - d. 2018
 - e. 2019 to date

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 1, the number of new patients referred with a primary or secondary diagnosis recorded for cannabis use, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” 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.

In order to provide you with the requested information, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise all patient records for the calendar years 2015 to 2019, to identify any information that fulfils your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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.

Under section 16 of the FOI, 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 FOI and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested.

2. Within the table below, the UHB provides the number of finished admission episodes with a primary and secondary diagnosis of cannabinoid use for the periods requested:

Calendar year	Number
2015	19
2016	21
2017	22
2018	21
2019 to date	11