

Reference:	FOI.6583.21
Subject:	Child obesity
Date of Request:	30 July 2021

Requested:

1. The number of children under 18 admitted to hospitals in Wales because of obesity in the calendar years of 2019, 2020 and 2021 (up until the most recent figures).
2. Please provide a breakdown of age if possible.
3. Please provide details of the individual's weight at the time of referral if possible.

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 and Data Protection (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.

In order to provide you with the requested information, significant administrative and clinical capacity would be required to identify the patients and retrieve their medical records, including nursing records, and for some children their dietetic record would be required. As the patient records are paper based, a manual review of these records would need to be undertaken to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as the 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, 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 FoIA.

Therefore, the UHB provides within the table below, the number of children under eighteen (18) years of age, with a recorded admission of obesity, across the UHB hospitals, by age group, for the calendar years 2019, 2020 and 1 January to 3 August 2021.

Calendar year	0-6	6-12	13-18
2019	*	7	6
2020	*	7	*
1/1/21 to 3/8/21	*	0	*

Please note:- the information provided is for patients admitted to hospital with obesity recorded as primary, secondary and tertiary diagnosis recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS).

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the 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/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 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.