

Reference:	FOI.16559.25
Subject:	Community Paediatrics
Date of Request:	7 February 2025

Requested:

Specifically, I am requesting details of the outpatient waiting times for all services, specialties, and sub-specialties categorised under community paediatrics from 2015 to 2025. More specifically*:

1. Outpatient pathways for Medical-led services: Please provide the outpatient number of outpatient pathways for all services, specialties, and sub-specialties categorised as community paediatrics and neurodiversity services for medically led clinics through any commissioning line from 2015 to 2025. Displayed annually and using the most up to date data.
2. Inpatient patient pathways where a child or young person is already known to a service, including therapeutic and psychological services: Please provide the number of patient pathways for all services, specialties, and sub-specialties categorised as community paediatrics for patients due to receive planned treatment through any commissioning line from 2015 to 2025. Displayed annually and using the most up to date data.
3. Outpatient patient pathways for AHP Led Services: Please provide the outpatient patient pathways for all services categorised as community paediatrics and child health for Allied Health Professional led services through any commissioning line from 2015 to 2025. To include, speech and language, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and dietetics.

Any shorter-term data sets, ideally pre-COVID will be acceptable if 2015-2025 is not available.

Clarification

For Q1 I'm seeking the total number of open pathways listed under community Paediatrics and Neurodiversity please and for Q3 I'm seeking information on the number of outpatient pathways led by our Allied Health Professional teams for community paediatric patients.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for question 2, 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.

As the UHB does not centrally record the information requested for inpatient pathways, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all admissions for the time periods requested and cross reference these with the relevant pathways, to identify information that may fulfil your request.

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 has identified and holds below.

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the total number of open pathways for Community Paediatrics during the 2015 to 2024 calendar years, along with data up until 20 February 2025.

Year	Total
2015	559
2016	792
2017	1128
2018	1477
2019	1791
2020	2181
2021	2143
2022	2205
2023	1951
2024	1538
1 January – 20 February 2025	1256

The UHB confirms that there are no medically led services for inpatient pathways for Neurodiversity.

2. The UHB has applied a Section 12 exemption for information on inpatient pathways.
3. The UHB provides within Attachment 1, the total number of outpatient pathways led by its Allied Health Professional (AHP) teams for Community Paediatric patients, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) during the 2015 to 2024 calendar years.

Where the figures in attachment 1 have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals that could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). 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.