

Reference:	FOI.17807.25
Subject:	Consanguinity
Date of Request:	14 July 2025

Requested:

I would like to know, since January 2020 and up to your most recently available data:

1. How many patients have been treated in your health board that had a family history of consanguinity?
2. What has been the total cost of care for these patients?

Clarified:

I am really just after all patients that have been flagged as having a family history of consanguinity, regardless of their particular reason for being treated.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with 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 (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.

To provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil your request. All patients have a digital record on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS). However, there is no category for consanguinity and if this was noted within a patient record on WPAS, it would be recorded in the patient keynote field, which is not able to be filtered or reported on. Therefore, a manual trawl of all patient records would need to be undertaken to identify the exact information requested.

The UHB can confirm that it has one million, five hundred and twenty-four thousand, one hundred and eighteen (1,524,118) patient records recorded on WPAS, searching all cases for the information requested would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the FoIA. Therefore, even if the UHB were to conduct a search on a sample of three hundred (300) of those records held, to see if any of the information you requested could be found, conducting the search would exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following:

300 @ 5 minutes per record = 25 hours
 25 hours @ £25 per hour = £625.00

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 the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request

You may further refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested. However, the UHB would still be required to undertake a manual search of the returned items to identify the information that exactly fits your request and so the outcome would be dependent on the number of returned items.