

Reference:	FOI.15301.24
Subject:	Consultant study leave
Date of Request:	19 September 2024

Requested:

1. The total study leave budget held by your Health Board for consultant study leave, from 2010-2024 with an annual budget total for each year.
2. The total study leave money given to consultants for study leave, from 2010-2024 with an annual total for each year.

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.

Training budgets are allocated to each Directorate across the UHB and is not specific to job group. Therefore, in order to provide you with the information requested, a manual search of the training undertaken across all Directorates would be required for the 2010 to 2024 calendar years, to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as it is not collated and 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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms it does not hold a specific study leave budget for consultants, as training budgets are allocated to each Directorate as a whole training budget, not per staff group.
2. A section 12 exemption has been applied. However, under Section 16, the UHB has identified from its Intrepid system that £48,643.80 has been paid for consultant study leave applications during the 2010 to 2024 calendar years. This does not take into account any payments made outside of the Intrepid system, which would require a manual search.