

Reference:	FOI.7324.21
Subject:	Delayed discharges
Date of Request:	2 November 2021

Requested:

Can you provide the following information under the FOIA, please?

The 10 longest delayed discharges, expressed in days, for the health board in 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, and 2020/21 (so far).

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.

The Welsh Government suspended the reporting of Delayed Transfer of Care (DTC) reporting for 2020/21, which is ongoing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in order to provide you with the information requested for 2020/21, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of patient records to identify and collate the data, as it 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 a link to the Stats Wales website, where historical Delayed Transfers of Care data is available.

[Delays by organisation and percent of NHS beds \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/statistics/wales/healthcare/delayed-transfers-of-care)