

Reference:	FOI.7572.21
Subject:	Delayed Transfers of Care
Date of Request:	1 December 2021

Requested:

I write regarding a Freedom of Information request on Delayed Transfers of Care and would be grateful if you could let me know the following information:

1. In the last 12 months, the number of delayed transfers of care in your Local Health Board, broken down by month;
2. The longest delayed transfer of care in the last 12 months, and the amount of time the patient has been waiting;
3. In the last 12 months, the number of patients who have been recorded as waiting over a month to leave hospital, broken down by month; and
4. How many discharge liaison nurses are employed within the Board.

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 Transfers of Care (DTOCs) for 2020/21, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this suspension is currently ongoing. Therefore, in order to provide you with the information requested, 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 and provides the information for question 4 below.

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

4. The UHB confirms it currently employs 11.4 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Discharge Liaison Nurses.