

Reference:	FOI.19474.26
Subject:	Dermatology waiting times
Date of Request:	3 February 2026

Requested:

This request relates to access to NHS dermatology services and waiting times for patients with skin conditions.

Please provide the following information for your Trust/Board, covering the last five financial years where available (2019/20 - 2024/25).

1. Dermatology Waiting Times and Access Indicators

For each financial year listed above, please provide:

- a. Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) elective waiting-time indicators for dermatology services, if held:
 - Median RTT waiting time (in weeks)
 - Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end)
 - Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end)
- b. Outpatient dermatology access, if held:
 - Median waiting time for a first outpatient dermatology appointment (in weeks)
 - Total number of patients on the dermatology outpatient waiting list at year-end
- c. Where possible, please indicate whether data are available broken down by:
 - New vs follow-up appointments
 - New outpatient appointment
 - Sub-specialties within dermatology (e.g. inflammatory skin disease, skin cancer, paediatric dermatology), if routinely recorded

2. Access to Dermatology Care and Capacity (If Held)

For each year listed above, please provide:

- a. The total number of consultant dermatologists employed by the Trust/Board (headcount or FTE, whichever is standard)
- b. Whether the Trust/Board commissions or provides specialist dermatology services beyond general dermatology (e.g. severe eczema, psoriasis, acne, or contact dermatitis clinics)

Where possible, please provide the data in an Excel or CSV format, broken down by financial year.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested for question 1, 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 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the data requested for the 2019/20 financial year, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of Dermatology patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as it is not easily accessible.

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, which can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request further, this is due to the UHB having reached the ceiling of the 18 hour "appropriate limit" to provide the information for the 2020/21 to 2024/25 financial years. To expand this trawl to the 2019/20 financial year would exceed the limit, as a manual trawl of Dermatology patient records would still need to be undertaken to fulfil this part of your request.

Additionally, where the figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. 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 (UK GDPR), 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.

Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds within the attached spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.