

Reference:	FOI.10562.22
Subject:	Dog bites
Date of Request:	21 December 2022

Requested:

Please can you provide me with the following information for the (calendar) years:

- i. 2017
- ii. 2018
- iii. 2019
- iv. 2020
- v. 2021
- vi. 2022

*If possible, can an age or age range be provided for each?

1. The number of persons who visited A&E in your board (Hywel Dda University Health Board) for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?
2. How many persons required inpatient treatment for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?
3. How many persons required surgery for injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?
4. How many persons suffered fatal injuries caused by dog bites or attacks?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of patients that required surgery or those that died following a dog bite, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) 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.

Accordingly, the UHB is unable to provide the data requested in response to questions 3 and 4 of your request, as the information being requested is not held centrally. The treatment required and the outcome of a patient's injury would be recorded within their medical record. We would therefore be required to undertake a manual trawl of the records identified to collate the information being requested. It is therefore estimated that the cost of conducting a search to answer this part of your request would be:

161 medical records @ 30 minutes per record = 80.5 hours
80.5 hours @ £25 per hour = £2,012.50

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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 Freedom of Information Act, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance to requestors. Therefore, the UHB has provided responses to the remainder of your request below.

1. Within the table below, the UHB has provided the number of patients broken down into age groups, who attended a UHB Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department as a result of a dog bite, within the requested timeframe.

Age Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
0 to 15 years	83	109	116	98	99	101	606
16 to 24 years	59	55	49	44	68	60	335
25 to 65 years	296	309	313	302	377	356	1953
66 to 75 years	58	73	67	50	86	69	403
Over 75 years	40	34	37	32	31	40	214
Total	536	580	582	526	661	626	3511

2. Within the table below, the UHB has provided the number of patients broken down into age groups, who required inpatient treatment within a UHB hospital as a result of a dog bite, within the requested timeframe.

Age Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
0 to 15 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	18
16 to 24 years	0	*	*	*	*	*	13
25 to 65 years	18	12	6	12	16	21	85
66 to 75 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	27
Over 75 years	0	*	6	*	0	*	18
Total	25	23	21	30	26	36	161

* Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk, the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.