

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.14086.24
<b>Subject:</b>	Domestic abuse data in Wales
<b>Date of Request:</b>	25 March 2024

**Requested:**

I am conducting a small research project on behalf of a Member of the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) to investigate the potential effects of domestic abuse on people's mental and physical health in different areas of Wales. The research aims to identify areas where further research and resources might be beneficial.

**Physical Health**

1. Number of referrals for treatment to physical injuries due to disclosed domestic abuse or sexual assault
2. Number of referrals for physical injuries suspected to be caused from domestic abuse or sexual assault
3. The number of patients who attended GP surgery and disclosed domestic abuse
4. The number of patients who attended hospital and disclosed domestic abuse
5. The number of patients who disclosed domestic abuse to midwife or health visitors
6. The number of patients who disclosed domestic abuse to another member of staff from the health board

I kindly request the following information regarding referrals to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in your health board area:

1. Number of referrals to CAMHS: For each year from 1st of January- 31st of December, please provide the total number of referrals received by CAMHS in the following periods:
  - 2023
  - 2018
  - 2013
2. Number of referrals receiving a full assessment: For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals that progressed to a full assessment by CAMHS.
3. Number of referrals declined: For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals that were declined by CAMHS.
4. Number of referrals with high ACE score: For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals involving children and young people under 18 who had an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE score) of 4 or over.
5. Number of referrals with domestic abuse history: For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals involving children and young people under 18 who had a history of witnessing or being subjected to domestic abuse.
6. Number of diagnosed children with additional needs and trauma history: For each academic year mentioned above, please provide the number of children and young people under 18 who:
  - Were diagnosed with or suspected to have additional learning needs or additional behavioural needs.
  - Were also known to have experienced childhood trauma (including witnessing or being subjected to domestic abuse).

If possible please specify the type of additional learning or behavioural needs identified.

## **Adult Mental Health**

For each year from 1st of January- 31st of December for following years:

- 2023
- 2018
- 2013

1. Number of all referrals to Adult Mental Health Team
2. Number of referrals that progressed to a full assessment by Adult Mental Health Team
3. For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals that were declined by Adult Mental Health Team
4. For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals of patients who had an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE score) of 4 or over.
5. For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of referrals involving patients who had a history of witnessing domestic abuse
6. For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of patients who had been a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime
7. For each year mentioned above, please provide the number of patients who have perpetrated domestic abuse in their lifetime

## **Clarification**

Clarification was sought for the timeframe for the six questions under the category 'Physical Health'. The following clarification was received:

I would like to request information regarding the 1 January - 31 December in the following periods please:

- 2023
- 2018
- 2013

## **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 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.

The information requested covers a number of different departments across the UHB, including but not limited to, Mental Health, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Emergency Departments. As the information requested is recorded by a range of departments across the UHB, it is not collated and recorded centrally. Therefore, in order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patient records, to identify any information that may fulfil your request.

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.

### Physical Health

1. & 2. The UHB has applied a section 12 to this request for information.
3. The UHB holds the information requested only for its managed GP Practices. For context, GP Practices are independent contractors that provide services to Health Boards under a General Medical Services (GMS) contract. When a GMS contract is resigned, the UHB initiates the implementation of the Welsh Health Circular (WHC) General Medical Services Vacancies – A Guide to Good Practice (September 2006), to consider how GMS will be delivered following a contract resignation. A Health Board can decline a GMS contract resignation or can decide to retain the GMS services through a managed practice arrangement.

Therefore, the data provided is from GP Practices that are currently a managed practice, together with data from GP Practices that were previously a managed practice during the time period requested.

Should you wish to obtain the information requested from other GP surgeries within the locality, a FOI request would need to be submitted directly to each Practice. The UHB provides in the link below the contact details for each GP Practice in the locality. [surgeries - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)

The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients who attended a UHB managed practice and disclosed domestic abuse between 1 January and 31 December during the years of 2013, 2018 and 2023.

GP Practice	2013	2018	2023
Ash Grove	0	0	*
Minafon	*	8	8
Sarn	*	11	6
Tenby	*	*	*
N&J	*	0	*
Solva	Section 12		

Please note that the information applicable to Solva Practice is not collated and recorded centrally and therefore, the UHB has applied a Section 12 to this part of the request.

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 (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, 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.

4. The UHB has applied a section 12 to this request for information.
5. The UHB has applied a section 12 to the request for the number of patients who disclosed domestic abuse to a Health Visitor.

The UHB can advise that 27 patients are recorded on the Sharing Safeguarding Information in Pregnancy (SSIP) database as a positive recording for domestic abuse during 2023 and this figure refers to disclosures to midwives only.

For context, 'Routine Enquiry' (RE), is a question asked by maternity staff when in contact with pregnant women; this is an opening for discussion regarding domestic violence existing within their relationships. If the RE is a 'yes' response recorded on the SSIP database, then this is a positive for domestic abuse.

The database was introduced in 2020 and therefore, a section 12 has been applied to the years of 2018 and 2013 as the information is not recorded centrally.

6. The UHB does not hold the information requested for the number of patients who disclosed domestic abuse to another member of staff from the UHB. The request for information is broad, applying to all members of staff from doctors and nurses to catering and domestic staff and all other staff groups in the UHB. Therefore, it would not be possible to identify the information requested, as it may not be held and is not centrally recorded.

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of referrals received between 1 January and 31 December during the time period requested.

Year	Referrals Received
2023	2553
2018	2207
2013	1125

2. The UHB provides within the table overleaf, the number of referrals that were accepted between 1 January and 31 December during the time period requested.

It should be noted that the UHB does not specifically collate how many initial assessments take place. Therefore, it is only able to provide how many referrals were accepted by the UHB. Furthermore, it must be noted that not all accepted referrals lead to a full assessment. Some assessments do not take place for reasons such as the family not opting into the service and circumstances changing.

Year	Referrals Accepted
2023	1983
2018	1497
2013	482

3. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of referrals that were declined between 1 January and 31 December during the time period requested.

Year	Referrals Declined
2023	570
2018	710
2013	643

4. 5. & 6. The UHB has applied a section 12 to this request for information.

### Adult Mental Health

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of referrals received by the Adult Mental Health service between 1 January and 31 December during the time period requested.

Year	Referrals Received
2023	15854
2018	14783
2013	10798

2. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of referrals that were accepted by the Adult Mental Health service between 1 January and 31 December during the time period requested.

It should be noted that the data provided reflects how many referrals were accepted rather than undertaken, as the UHB does not specifically gather how many assessments take place. Furthermore, it must be noted that not all accepted referrals lead to a full assessment. Some assessments do not take place for reasons such as the patient opting not to engage with the service and circumstances changing.

Year	Referrals Accepted
2023	13275
2018	11336
2013	7918

3. The UHB provides within the table overleaf, the number of referrals that were declined by the Adult Mental Health service between 1 January and 31 December during the time period requested.

Year	Referrals Declined
2023	2579
2018	3447
2013	2880

4. 5. & 6. The UHB has applied a section 12 to this request for information.