

Reference:	FOI.545.19
Subject:	Drug resistant infections
Date of Request:	10 April 2019

Requested

How many cases of drug resistant infections (both bacterial and fungal) have there been at your NHS Board in each of the past five years (2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014)?

- What were those infections?
- How many of those infections resulted in deaths?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of cases of drug resistant infections that have tested positive within the requested timeframe, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” 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 the information requested the UHB’s Microbiology department would be required to undertake searches based on individual antibiotic susceptibilities to identify any cases and then subsequently cross reference the cases identified against patient records to identify the detail and outcome. Similarly the UHB’s infection prevention and control team have only recently implemented a computer system which automatically tags multi antibiotic resistance, however the information held centrally would not cover the requested time frame.

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*.

Under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a responsibility to provide advice and assistance. The UHB could therefore consider a refined request, whereby should you be interested in obtaining data detailing resistance to a named medication, the UHB would invite you submit a subsequent Freedom of Information request from which a search could be conducted.