

Reference:	FOI.17164.25
Subject:	Duty of Candour reports
Date of Request:	23 April 2025

Requested:

Requesting a FOI for the annual Duty of Candour report for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information is accessible by another means. The UHB's Duty of Candour Annual Report for 2023/2024 is in the public domain and is available within the papers of the UHB's 2024 Annual General Meeting published on the UHB's website.

For ease of reference, please click on the link below, which will take you directly to the papers of the meeting which took place on 26 September 2024.

[Annual General Meeting 2024](#)

Additionally, it is the UHB's intention to publish its Duty of Candour Annual Report for 2024/25 in due course. Therefore, this information is exempt under Section 22 of the FoIA, which states that information is exempt if it is intended that the information held by the public authority will be published at a future date.

This exemption is qualified and therefore, if information falls within Section 22, public authorities must apply a public interest test. The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in the UHB being open and transparent. The UHB's provision of care is a popular topic of discussion, with a significant amount of public interest. The UHB aims to provide high quality, safe and compassionate care to all of our service users and it is within everyone's interests that information is shared, and that the public be kept informed of developments, to reduce anxieties within our communities.

Against Disclosure: The information being requested is currently being finalised and is to be published on the UHB's website during September 2025. The UHB has a duty to ensure it has appropriate time to consider the impact and issues arising from the Duty of Candour Annual Report for 2024/25 and disclosure at this time could lead to anxiety within communities.

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the requested information at this time is greater than the interest in disclosing it. The UHB has governance processes in place to ensure appropriate due diligence prior to all reports being released into the public domain, and it is therefore applying a Section 22 exemption.

The Duty of Candor Annual Report for 2024/25 will be presented to the Board at its Annual General Meeting scheduled to take place during September 2025. The report will then be published on the UHB's website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

[Board meetings 2025](#)