

Reference:	FOI.12704.23
Subject:	Eating Disorders (ED)
Date of Request:	20 September 2023

Requested:

This request relates to outpatient/community patients discharged by your board who were being treated for an eating disorder (primary or secondary eating disorder diagnosis; please include all eating disorders, i.e., ICD10 code F50: Eating Disorders).

1. Please state the total number of outpatients / community patients with an eating disorder diagnosis that were **discharged** from your board in each of the following years:
 - a. 2018
 - b. 2019
 - c. 2020
 - d. 2021
 - e. 2022
 - f. total 2018-2022 (1 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2022).

2. Of those, please state the total number of outpatients / community patients with an eating disorder diagnosis that were discharged from your board with a **BMI below 15** in each of the following years:
 - a. 2018
 - b. 2019
 - c. 2020
 - d. 2021
 - e. 2022
 - f. total 2018-2022 (1 Jan 2018 to 31 Dec 2022).

3. Of the TOTAL discharged with a BMI below 15 between 1 Jan 2018 and 31 Dec 2022 (i.e., **the total you provided in answer to question 2F**), please state:
 - a. The number of patients that were discharged from:
 - i. a specialist community/outpatient eating disorder service if you have one, and
 - ii. general community/outpatient care.

 - b. The number of patients that were:
 - i. aged 18 and above, and
 - ii. aged below 18.

 - c. The number of patients who had a BMI of:
 - i. 14-14.99
 - ii. 13-13.99
 - iii. 12-12.99 and
 - iv. <12

 - d. The exact BMI of the patient discharged with the lowest BMI.

- e. Please provide a breakdown of where patients were discharged to - i.e., inpatient setting / another NHS Trust / palliative care / no onwards care organised by the trust etc. (If data is not recorded or retrievable in this format, please provide any information you have available concerning which NHS or non-NHS treatment/service these patients were discharged to)
4. Please provide any internal board documents relating to the treatment of patients with a 'Longstanding Eating disorder' or 'Severe and Enduring Eating disorder' or 'Severe and Enduring Anorexia Nervosa' (otherwise known as 'L-ED' / 'SEED' / SE-AN) in inpatient and outpatients settings.

Clarification

Question 4 relates to documents such as **guidance, policies, pathways, procedures etc.** I am not asking for any documentation relating to individual patients, or staff emails etc, as I am aware they would have to be heavily redacted, exceeding the time constraints of the FOIA. Please note, only provide an answer to question 4 if doing so is possible within the time limits – please prioritise retrieving answers to q 1-3.

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.

In order to provide you with all of the data requested for question 1, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all outpatient and Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) records, to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

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. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB's Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (SCAMHS) and ED Service can only identify patients discharged from their service and not those discharged from the UHB. Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients, diagnosed with an ED, discharged from its ED service, during the 2018 to 2022 calendar years. The UHB's SCAMHS ED Service was introduced in April 2022, and therefore, the UHB is only able to provide the number of ED patients discharged from its service for the 2022 calendar year.

Calendar year	ED service	SCAMHS - ED
2018	25	
2019	11	
2020	10	

2021	9	
2022	33	19

2. & 3. 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 does not hold the information requested.