

Reference:	FOI.2432.20
Subject:	Erectile dysfunction
Date of Request:	3 February 2020

Requested:

Could you please provide the following information for each the last five calendar years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), broken down by year:

1. The number of patients given an initial assessment for erectile dysfunction (ED) or distress arising from ED in your health board area, broken down in the following way with regards to their age - 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus.
2. The number of patients referred to specialist teams after presenting with suspected erectile dysfunction or distress arising from ED, broken down in the following way with regards to their age - 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus.
3. The number of patients prescribed medication or some other treatment for erectile dysfunction, broken down in the following way with regards to their age - 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus.

For 1,2 and 3, can you provide the age of the youngest patient/patients assessed/referred/ prescribed medication for each year.

Response:

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients who were referred for specialist treatment or the number of patients who were prescribed medication after presenting with suspected erectile dysfunction, 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 you with the number of patients were referred for specialist treatment or prescribed medication the UHB would need to identify the patients who were given an initial assessment for erectile dysfunction and then manually scrutinise the patient records to identify the requested information. It is estimated that conducting the search would cost:

97 patients @ 15 minutes per patient record = 24.25 hours
 24.25 hours @ £25 per hours = £606.25

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*.

Under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has provided the number of patients who were given an initial assessment for erectile dysfunction within the requested timeframe, broken down into the requested age groups within the table below.

Age Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
16-24	*	0	*	0	0
25-40	*	0	0	0	*
41-60	*	*	9	7	16
60+	12	7	6	12	14

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.