

Reference:	FOI.6457.21
Subject:	Fast Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC) applications
Date of Request:	13 July 2021

Requested:

1. During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 how many applications for Fast Track Continuing Healthcare did your health board / Trust receive?
2. During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 how many applications for Fast Track Continuing Healthcare did your health board / Trust fund?
3. During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, how many applications for Fast Track continuing healthcare did your health board / Trust reject?
4. During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, what were the main reasons for rejecting Fast Track continuing healthcare applications?
5. What was the average time period in your Health Board / Trust in days/ hours from the point at which a Fast Track Continuing Healthcare application is **received** to the care package being provided for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20. 2020/21?
6. What was the average time period in days/hours from the point at which a Fast Track CHC application is **approved** to the care package being provided for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20. 2020/21?
7. What arrangements were made by your health board / Trust in relation to Fast Track Continuing healthcare during the Covid Pandemic during the financial years 2020/21?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested in respect of CHC applications, 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 approved applications, the number that required additional information and the average timeframes for the commencement of a package following receipt and approval, the UHB would be required to manually scrutinise each application received during the timeframe requested. As a total of 1,249 applications were received between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2021, scrutiny of these applications is estimated to cost the following:

1,249 patients @ 15 minutes per patient record = 312.25 hours
312.25 hours @ £25 per hours = £7,806.25

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*.

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 FoIA. The UHB can therefore provide you with a response to questions 1 and 7.

1. The table below provides the number of applications for Fast Track CHC during the 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

Financial year	Number of applications
2018/19	363
2019/20	416
2020/21	470

The UHB did not make any changes to the manner in which it processed Fast Track CHC applications during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. All applications are processed in accordance with 'Continuing NHS Healthcare The National Framework for Implementation in Wales', a copy of which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/continuing-nhs-healthcare-the-national-framework-for-implementation-in-wales.pdf>

Please note: Typically, applications for CHC are not rejected, although the panel may require additional information when considering the application.