

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.10524.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Fibromyalgia
<b>Date of Request:</b>	14 December 2022

**Requested:**

I'd like to request data held regarding the prevalence of Fibromyalgia in both the adult (18+) and child (>18) population.

I'd like the data to be split by;

1. Age at time of diagnosis/access to reporting service
2. Location/borough within Wales
3. Gender (biological/any other patient reported gender)

If I could request this information as an electronic spreadsheet

**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 and 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 information being requested for question 1, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all patient records of those identified with the prevalence of Fibromyalgia to identify the age of diagnosis/access to reporting service, as this information 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 information it holds for questions 2 and 3 within the attached spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.

Additionally, there may be patients in the community diagnosed with Fibromyalgia that may not have been admitted to a UHB hospital and consequently cannot be identified in our data trawl. Therefore, you may wish to contact the individual GP Practices, as this information would need to be requested directly from them. Contact details for each Practice can be found via the following link:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/directory/gps/>

Furthermore, where the figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low number 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 (FolA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 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 Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define 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.