

Reference:	FOI.11406.23
Subject:	Fibromyalgia
Date of Request:	31 March 2023

Requested:

I would like all relevant information relating to:

1. How many people in your health board have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia as of March 2023
2. How many people in your health board have been diagnosed with fibromyalgia over the past 5 years – please provide the data relating to; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022
3. How many people in your health board receive treatment for fibromyalgia as of March 2023

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 3, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all patient records of those identified with the prevalence of Fibromyalgia to identify those receiving treatment for it, 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 1 and 2 below.

1. & 2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of children and adults combined, that have been diagnosed with the prevalence of Fibromyalgia, as recorded on the UHB’s Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2018 to 2022 calendar years and the period 1 January to 31 March 2023.

Calendar year	Number
2018	686
2019	702
2020	523
2021	655
2022	736
2023 to 31/3/23	191

Additionally, there may be patients in the community diagnosed with Fibromyalgia who 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/>