

Reference:	FOI.17110.25
Subject:	Food poisoning due to wild food
Date of Request:	15 April 2025

Requested:

Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 April 2020 and the most recent date for which data is available.

Please could you provide the following:

1. A yearly breakdown of the number of cases of food poisoning due to incorrect identification or inappropriate preparation of wild food.
2. The type of wild food that caused the food poisoning (for example: fungi, plant, berries, etc...). Please include the specific species if known.
3. The symptoms experienced by the patient and the recovery time (for example: overnight stay or discharged within a couple hours)
4. The location where this food was picked.

We would define 'wild or foraged' foods to be either:

- Wild, naturally growing food which was picked and consumed by an individual
- Wild, naturally growing food which was consumed by an individual, but was served in a restaurant environment, having been picked in the wild within the UK.

If you need to carry out a key terms search to locate these records, please include the terms "foraged", "foraging", "wild food", "forager", "wild ingredients". If you would document these cases in another way, please include these results as per the spirit of my request.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with 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.

The Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) used by the UHB to record patient data does not include a code for wild or foraged foods. Several of the clinical codes utilised relate to the consumption of foods and resultant reactions, but this would not identify the specific cause of the food poisoning/reaction or be possible to say if foods attributed to the food poisoning or reaction were foraged or otherwise e.g. supermarket bought.

Therefore, in order to provide you with any information relating to patients who contracted food poisoning relating to wild or foraged foods, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of the records of all those patients who attended or were admitted to its hospitals as a result of a reaction to the consumption of foods. The search would in turn identify whether there is any detail noted within the records as to the source of the food which caused the illness.

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.