

Reference:	FOI.519.19
Subject:	Funding for Third Sector Organisations
Date of Request:	10 April 2019

Requested

- (a) Which Third Sector organisations receive funding from the HDdaUHB and how much?
- (b) Which of the 'Stakeholders', if not all, with whom the HDdaUHB are engaging are actually receiving funding from the Health Board and how much?
- (c) Is the HDdaUHB using 'paid' volunteers from Third Sector Organisations in their Accident & Emergency Department, alongside 'unpaid' HDdaUHB Volunteers? These paid Volunteers do not appear to have a higher skill set or to have had additional training.
- (d) Is the HDdaUHB paying any Third Sector Organisations, Stakeholders or Charities' to provide Volunteer service or placements in A&E or any other HDdaUHB Department? If so, to whom and how much money is being paid to them?

Clarification

You confirmed that your request was solely regarding third sector organisations, and your reference to stakeholders was not in relation to any other partners, such as Local Authorities.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (the UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested relating to the commissioning of any third sector organisations, stakeholders or charities to provide volunteer services within any UHB department, 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.

The UHB has 4 acute hospital sites, 7 community sites and 28 clinical specialisms, excluding therapies. Whilst the UHB does have a central volunteering service, not all volunteers are appointed via the central unit. In order to provide the information provided, the UHB would be required to consult all clinical specialisms and wards at each of the hospitals to understand whether there have been any volunteers working within their departments, and collect the information requested. It is estimated that conducting this search would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), 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 Act, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance; the UHB has therefore provided a response to question 1, 2 and 3 of your request below.

- a) The UHB has provided a list of all Third Sector organisations it provides funding to, and the total allocated funding within the 2018/19 financial year, within Attachment 1.

- b) Please see response to question 1.
- c) The UHB does not engage 'paid' volunteers within its Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments. Over the winter period 2018/19, Welsh Government commissioned The British Red Cross to provide additional support within the A&E departments. As part of the role, the volunteers also provide assistance to the patients to return home and settle in. The UHB was not involved in the procurement process and is not aware of any remuneration received by the volunteers. The UHB also has its own volunteering service, which provides unpaid volunteers to the A&E department. This service provides support for patients, including social interaction, encouragement at mealtimes and involvement in activities such as reading which provides a needed distraction for patients.