

Reference:	FOI.15796.24
Subject:	Haematology
Date of Request:	22 October 2024

Requested:

- Over the last 3 years can you please tell me the number of Haematology (Blood Cancer) Patients who have been seen at Wthybush Hospital, Haverfordwest and at Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen.
- Over the last 3 years can you tell me the number of staff employed directly within Haematology Departments at Wthybush Hospital, Haverfordwest and Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen. Can you break this down to Consultants, Associate Specialists, Nurses etc.
- Over the last 3 years can you tell me the number of Haematology (Blood Cancer) Patients undergoing "Chemotherapy Treatment" at Wthybush Hospital, Haverfordwest and Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen.
- Over the last 3 years can you tell me how many Haematology (Blood Cancer) Patients have *missed* the "intended treatment start date of no later than 62 days from the point of suspicion) at Wthybush Hospital, Haverfordwest and Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen.

Response:

- Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all 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 UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) is not able to identify the number of appointments for patients with malignant or non-malignant blood conditions. In order to identify the information requested specifically for blood cancers, the UHB would be required to cross reference the number of appointments booked against patient records.

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

The tables below provide the number of new and follow up appointments within the Clinical Haematology departments at both Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) and Wthybush General Hospital (WGH) during the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

Financial year	GGH			WGH		
	New	Follow up	Total	New	Follow up	Total

2021/22	258	3,226	3,484	242	4,383	4,625
2022/23	219	3,746	3,965	257	4,276	4,533
2023/24	281	3,587	3,868	240	4,848	5,088

2. Current staffing levels for each of the sites are detailed within the table below. Please note the Consultants will typically work across multiple sites.

Base site	Haematology staff
GGH	3x Consultant Haematologist 1x Associate Specialist 1x Specialty Doctor 1x Clinical Fellow 1x Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) 1x Haematology Pharmacist
WGH	2x Consultant Haematologists 1x Associate Specialist 1x Specialty Doctor 2x Haematology CNS 1x Lead Haematology Pharmacist
Cover both sites	1x Lead Haematology CNS 1x Quality Improvement and Service Transformation (QIST) Manager

Of these staff members, the following have been newly recruited within the last 3 years:

- Lead Haematology Pharmacist
- Trainee CNS (now qualified)
- Consultant Haematologist
- Clinical Fellow
- Haematology Pharmacist
- Lead Haematology CNS
- QIST Manager

3. The table below provides the number of Haematology patients who have undergone Chemotherapy treatment for blood cancer at both GGH and WGH during the period 24 October 2021 to 23 October 2024. Each patient will only be counted once despite how many times they will have attended during the period, as is recorded by Chemocare. Please note these figures do not include patients who will have attended for Bisphosphonates.

Site	Number
GGH	218
WGH	235

4. The table below provides the number of Haematology patients who did not begin their treatment within 62 days from the point of suspicion at both GGH and WGH, during 2021, 2022 and 2023, as is recorded by Chemocare.

Site	2021	2022	2023
GGH	12	18	28
WGH	16	17	19