

Reference:	FOI.6058.21
Subject:	Health Board staff
Date of Request:	21 May 2021

Requested:

I am looking for the following information which I believe is held by the Health Board.

1. The total number of staff employed by Hywel Dda Health Board as of May 17, 2021, all roles and positions included.
2. The total number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 among staff members at the Health Board between 1 March 2020 and 17 May 2021.
3. A breakdown of the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases among staff members by month (e.g. 17 cases confirmed in March 2020, etc.).

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that a total of 13,610 employees were recorded on the Electronic Staff Record system (including bank and locum staff), as at 17 May 2021.
2. & 3. The UHB is unable to provide you with the full information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your requests 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 only holds a record of employees’ COVID-19 testing information between the dates of 18 March 2020 and 20 May 2020. The key worker testing was originally booked via the UHB’s Command Centre, enabling a record to be maintained. However, since a national system was utilised and the ability to complete home testing was introduced, the UHB has no way of accurately recording every test and is reliant on employees reporting the information.

Therefore, in order to provide you with the requested information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all Occupational Health records and manually scrutinise all COVID-19 positive test results, to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The number of positive tests for UHB staff between 18 March 2020 and 20 May 2020 was 490; therefore, conducting a search for this element of your request, for the two month period alone, would far exceed the ‘appropriate level’, costing the UHB the following:

490 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 122.5 hours
122.5 hours @ £25 per hours = £3,062.50

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.

