

Reference:	FOI.16087.24
Subject:	Health Board's 'A Healthier Mid and West Wales' Strategy (AHMWWS)
Date of Request:	29 November 2024

Requested:

1. The total amount spent to date on the consultation process for the strategy: "A Healthier Mid and West Wales: Our future generations living well".
2. The total amount spent to date on the consultation process for a new hospital site earmarked as part of the above strategy.
3. The total amount spent on site selection for the new hospital earmarked in the strategy, including spending on external consultants and experts.
4. The total amount spent on publicity for "A Healthier Mid and West Wales: Our future generations living well."

Clarification

The UHB requested the following clarification for question one of your request for information:

- Can you please clarify the timeframe this request covers as the strategy has spanned a number of years and passed through multiple phases during this time.

The UHB received the following clarification for question one of your request for information:

- I'd like the total spent on consultation from its inception to December 2024.

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 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 does not have a central register for the AHMWWS' costs for publicity and engagement. These costs are held departmentally and also form part of wider project spending. In order to provide you with the information requested, the UHB would need to contact multiple departments and undertake a manual trawl to identify any information that may fulfil your request.

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 UHB has also applied an exemption under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as some of the information requested is accessible by another means. The information requested has previously been presented to the Board and to the UHB Committees forming part of Board and Committee papers, which are already within the public domain and available on our website.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's Board and Committee services webpage:

[Board and Committee Services](#)

1. The UHB as required, under its legal duty to engage and consult with its community, undertook extensive engagement and consultation in 2017 and 2018 on its strategy: A Healthier Mid and West Wales Strategy. The UHB contracted an external company Capita to undertake engagement and consultation on the AHMWWS. The value of works undertaken by Capita on the consultation process for the AHMWWS was £512,754.00.
2. The UHB can inform you that the amount spent to date on the consultation process including technical support for the land selection for the proposed new hospital site as part of the AHMWWS was:
 - Consultation support £0.345m
 - Technical Support £0.635m
3. The UHB can inform you the total amount spent on site selection for the new hospital as part of implementing the AHMWWS including spending on external consultants and experts is £1.221m, in addition to the costs provided in the response to question 2. This amount relates to technical and specialist advice (e.g. design, planning, transport, and environmental consultants).

Further detail of this is set out in the [Implementing the Healthier Mid and West Wales Strategy – Land Appraisal Report](#) presented to the Board at its public Board meeting held on 4 August 2022.

4. The UHB has applied a section 12 exemption to this request.

Current Position – Strategy Refresh

In 2018, the UHB agreed the first ever strategic plan for this part of Wales, 'A Healthier Mid and West Wales'. The strategy development explicitly referenced that services were unsustainable, and this unsustainability could not be addressed without fundamental change. In the six years since the strategy was agreed, change has occurred. However, the changes seen are not to the level that would address the fundamental sustainability risks.

The strategy was predicated on moving care closer to home and the development of a network of community hubs. However, in support of this vision to enable people to stay healthier for longer, significant capital investment was also deemed necessary - most notably the proposal for a new urgent and planned care hospital but also the repurposed Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) and Withybush General Hospital (WGH), improvements at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) and Bronglais General Hospital (BGH). The strategy recognises the age and limitations of the UHB's current estate/s and the need to modernise facilities to support patients, services, and staff..

The affordability of the strategy has changed to such an extent that what was once viable and appropriate, particularly the development of a new urgent and planned care hospital, now appears unlikely in the short and medium-term.

Given that six years have elapsed since the strategy was agreed, a global pandemic has occurred and the changing national financial position, the Board at its November 2024 Board meeting agreed it was timely to undertake a refresh of the strategy. It is not anticipated this will alter the fundamental principles and vision of AHMWW; however, the specific plans to achieve this may require review.

The vision remains, so it is worth noting this is not a radical change of direction but rather refinement in how we deliver the strategy in the current environment, which is different to what it was six years ago.

Work is currently progressing on the scope of the strategic refresh and a further paper is going to Public Board at the end of this month. Details on the discussion held by the Board in its November 2024 meeting can be found at the following link.

[Update on A Healthier Mid and West Wales' Strategy](#)