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| Reference: | FOI.1139.19 |
| Subject: | Heart Valve Disease |
| Date of Request: | 15 July 2019 |

Requested

Please complete the attached questionnaire regarding heart valve disease.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with information to answer requests 'c', 'd', 'g' and 'h' as they relate specifically to patients diagnosed with heart valve disease. 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.

In order to provide you with the information being requested, the UHB would be required to manually scrutinise the patient records to identify the information. In order to provide you with the number of patients suffering with heart valve disease who have been referred for surgery, referred for treatment or admitted to hospital alone, the UHB would be required to manually scrutinise the records of 445 patients recorded as diagnosed with heart valve disease. It is estimated that undertaking this search would cost:

445 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 111.25 hours
111.25 hours @ £25 per hours = £2,781.25

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has answered the remainder of your request within Attachment 1 as requested.