

Reference:	FOI.13070.23
Subject:	Home birth services
Date of Request:	7 November 2023

Requested:

Please could you provide the following information:

1. Year-on-year costs for outsourcing arrangements incurred by Hywel Dda Health Board since 2015.
2. All relevant board minutes relating to the provision of home birth services since January 2022.
3. Any correspondence received from the Welsh Government on the provision of home birth services since January 2022.

Clarified

To clarify for question 1, I would like the total costs for all outsourcing arrangements please.

Response:

1. 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.

As the data requested was not collated and recorded centrally prior to the 2018/19 financial year, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of its Finance Ledgers and invoices for the 2014/15 to 2017/18 financial years, to identify any information that would 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 and provides, the total costs for all outsourcing arrangements, for the 2018/19 to 2022/23 financial years, within the table below.

Financial year	Cost
2018/19	£6,065,697.00
2019/20	£3,480,146.20
2020/21	£249,659.00
2021/22	£5,685,858.09
2022/23	£1,304,125.00

Please note:- home birth services have not been outsourced; therefore, there are no outsourcing costs for home births services.

2. & 3. The UHB regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested, as there have been no changes to the home birth service, nor has it received any correspondence from Welsh Government (WG) relating to the provision of home birth services, during the requested timeframe.