

Reference:	FOI.1720.19
Subject:	Home births
Date of Request:	14 October 2019

Requested

I would like to find out how many of your patients arrange to have home births?

Are you able to provide the data since 2014?

If so, can you please divide the data per year up to 2019, and provide the percentage vs the full amount of births under your health board. (e.g. 3% of our recorded births were home births)

If you are also able to reveal how many of these home births resulted in hospital visitations either during or after the birth, that would also be very useful.

I don't want to confuse the figures with home births which took place out of necessity – what I want to know is how many mothers arranged to have them delivered at home in advance.

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 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 requested information, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise all maternity notes from the calendar year 2014 to the date of your request, as the information requested is not held centrally. Within this year (2019), 167 women birthed at home; it is therefore estimated that completing this part of your request would cost:

167 women @ 15 minutes per set of maternity notes = 41.75 hours
 41.75 hours @ £25 per hours = £1,043.75

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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.

Under section 16 of the FOI, we are required, as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under the FOI and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested.

The UHB has therefore provided you with the number and percentage of patients that arranged to have home births for the calendar years 2015 to 2019 (to 31/8/19) within the table below:

Calendar Year	Number of home births	Percentage
2015	104	3.4%
2016	126	4.7%
2017	115	4.2%
2018	98	3.9%
2019 (to 31/8/19)	63	3.6%

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of hospital visitations, either during or after the birth, as this information is not held.