

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.18301.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Hospital drug usage
<b>Date of Request:</b>	8 September 2025

**Requested:**

Please could you provide the following information for your Health Board/hospital(s):

1. A list of medicines used within secondary care, including the total quantities dispensed or issued, for the most recent 12-month period available.

Where possible, please provide this information broken down by:

- a. Medicine name (generic and/or brand)
- b. Strength and formulation
- c. Total quantity used/dispensed
- d. Associated costs (if available)

If the full dataset is not available, I would be grateful if you could provide any reports, summaries, or datasets that most closely match the request.

I would prefer the information in an electronic format such as Excel or CSV if possible

**Response:**

As some of the information requested from Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) relates to third party costs, the UHB considers that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), Section 43 applies, as disclosure would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person. Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b). The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and accountability of the activities being undertaken by the UHB for the procurement of its medicines, to ensure that real value for money is being achieved, and in turn, to demonstrate the effective use of public funds.

**Against Disclosure:** Disclosure of the information could impede the UHB's ability to trade competitively within the pharmaceutical sector, as providers would not like to carry the risk of their costings being released into the public domain. Action of this kind could directly impact the UHB's ability to treat patients, should medications not be available for procurement.

**Decision:** Following consideration of the arguments, the UHB determines that the costing information being requested is commercially confidential in nature, as its disclosure could impact the provider's ability to trade within a competitive market and equally could impact the UHB's ability to procure the drugs required.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the information requested at questions 1a to c, for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025, within Attachment 1.