

Reference:	FOI.13975.24
Subject:	Hospital food
Date of Request:	8 March 2024

Requested:

Please provide me:

1. The total £ amount spent on patient meals. I would like a figure for just the food/ingredients, without including staff costs or equipment.
2. The total number of meals served to patients (including breakfast if possible)
3. The average daily cost of meals per patient in £. I.e. how much does it cost to feed one patient for a day, taking just the food/ingredients costs into account, so again not including staff costs or equipment. Provide this as an average over the year, along with a note on the method used to work this out if possible.
4. The average number of patients you fed per day over the year (i.e. on any given day we fed an average of 100 patients)

For each question, please provide figures for the trust as a whole, and then for each individual hospital under your trust for the last 5 financial years, NOT calendar years:

2019/2020

2020/2021

2021/2022

2022/2023

2023/2024 (for this year, please provide the figures from the start of the year to 29/02/2024)

I am expecting the data in table format, with years in the rows, and then a column for the trust as a whole, as well as a column for each hospital you serve. Excel is my preferred format.

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 data requested for the 2023/24 financial year is not currently available in its Estates and Facilities Performance Management System (EFPMS). Therefore, the UHB would be required to undertake manual search of Hotel Services catering records and its financial ledgers to identify the requested information, as it is not currently recorded centrally and easily accessible.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide the information requested for all of its smaller sites, as some have patient meals provided by an acute hospital. Therefore, collating and breaking down this data would exceed the 18 hours allowed under the FoIA, as the time/cost limit has already been reached.

Accordingly, the UHB is 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 for its acute and community hospitals, within the attached spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.