

Reference:	FOI.428.19
Subject:	Hywel Dda University Health Board pathology laboratory services
Date of Request:	27 March 2019

Requested

1. How many laboratories (please include breakdown of sites/disciplines if possible) are there in your health board?
2. What is the headcount of laboratory staff (please include breakdown of sites/departments/roles if possible) in your health board?
3. How many patient samples or 'reportable laboratory activities' are processed (please include breakdown of sites/departments if possible) by your health board's laboratories each year (please include the three most recent available years' numbers)?
4. What number (and percentage) of your health board's patients have a sample processed in a laboratory as part of their treatment?
5. How many patient samples are taken by your health board but not processed/analysed by your health board's laboratory staff? (IE: outsourced)
6. If any, where are outsourced patient samples sent? (please include company names/addresses and number of samples sent each year)

Response:

1. The UHB has pathology laboratories based within each of its four acute hospital sites, Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Prince Philip Hospital (PPH), Bronglais General Hospital (BGH) and Withybush General Hospital (WGH). The table below provides a breakdown of the disciplines offered by each of the laboratories.

Hospital	Discipline
BGH	Blood Sciences, Blood Transfusion
GGH	Blood Sciences, Cellular Pathology, Blood Transfusion
PPH	Blood Sciences, Immunology, Blood Transfusion
WGH	Blood Sciences, Blood transfusion, Microbiology

2. Attachment 1 provides the breakdown and head count of all laboratory staff employed by the Health Board.
3. The tables overleaf provide the number of sample requests received and the number of individual tests conducted within the requested timeframe.

Number of sample episodes

Hospital	Department	2016	2017	2018
BGH	Blood Sciences	132,855	127,777	124,993
PPH	Andrology	322	203	156
	Blood Sciences	224,412	222,341	217,829
WGH	Andrology	188	202	219
	Blood Sciences	234,812	230,802	229,215
	Microbiology	58,340	60,104	58,347
GGH	Andrology	317	361	432
	Blood Sciences	296,268	268,611	267,223

Number of individual tests

Hospital	Department	2016	2017	2018
BGH	Blood Sciences	542,667	575,065	573,992
PPH	Andrology	322	203	156
	Blood Sciences	709,888	780,727	805,214
WGH	Andrology	188	202	219
	Blood Sciences	840,533	915,268	915,817
	Microbiology	65,574	65,534	64,043
GGH	Andrology	317	361	433
	Blood Sciences	971,986	1,031,117	1,051,016

4. The UHB is unable to provide this information as it does not keep a record of the percentage or number of patients who have a sample processed within the UHB's laboratories.
5. Almost all samples are processed by the UHB to some extent, with only a small proportion for specialised testing not being part processed before being outsourced to an alternative site for full testing.
6. Attachments 2 and 3 provide the number of samples which are outsourced to alternative sites for testing, broken down according site and calendar year.

* Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk, the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of samples due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.