

Reference:	FOI.16962.25
Subject:	Infections
Date of Request:	24 March 2025

Requested:

Can you please provide the number of individuals in HDUHB who have to your knowledge acquired the following infections each year from 2020 - 2025.

Can you also confirm whether they have been associated with rivers and/or reservoirs or from the Sea:

- Giardiasis
- Cryptosporidium
- Leptospirosis
- Cyclospora
- Shigella dysentery
- E Coli 0157
- Alga blooms
- Hepatitis A

Please could you provide the information in a CSV file format in this order:

Location of report, Year, infection contracted [name of condition i.e shigella], suspected reason of contraction [i.e bacteria in river]

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.

In order to provide you with which of the named infections have been associated with rivers and/or reservoirs or from the sea, the UHB would need undertake a manual trawl of all patient records, to identify any information that may fulfil your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that there are ninety-six (96) infections recorded for the 2020 calendar year alone, exceeding the ‘appropriate limit’ as demonstrated below:

96 @ 15 minutes per item = 24 hours
90.75 hours @ £25 per hour = £600.00

Therefore, conducting the required search to provide you with all the information being requested for the entire period of your request, 1 January 2020 to 24 March 2025, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’.

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. Therefore, the UHB provides within Attachment 1, the number of patients that were diagnosed with the infections listed in your request, for each calendar year from 2020 to 2024 and between 1 January and 24 March 2025.

Where the figure in the table on the attachment has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), 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 FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR defines personal data as data that 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.

The UHB has also applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA, as some of the information is accessible by another means. The infections listed in your request are reportable to Public Health Wales (PHW).

PHW have published data for some of the organisms requested, links to the PHW website are provided below:

- Giardiasis [Laboratory reports of GIARDIA LAMBLIA in Wales | Tableau Public](#)
- Cryptosporidium [Laboratory reports of CRYPTOSPORIDIUM in Wales | Tableau Public](#)
- E Coli 0157 [Laboratory reports of E COLI O157 in Wales | Tableau Public](#)
- Hepatitis A [Laboratory reports of HEPATITIS A in Wales | Tableau Public](#)

Should you require further information, it is recommended that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information Team at PHW, who are contactable at:

Freedom of Information Office
Public Health Wales
Floor 3
2 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Email: phw.foi@wales.nhs.uk
Phone: 029 2010 4308