

Reference:	FOI.13306.23
Subject:	Long Covid
Date of Request:	4 December 2023

Requested:

1. Do you have a specialist service for long Covid patients? Please name the clinic/service
2. How many patients in your local NHS area have been referred to the clinic/service to date?
3. How many staff do you have working in the service FTE (full time equivalent) broken down by job title of:
 - a. Doctor
 - b. nurse
 - c. physiotherapist
 - d. occupational therapist
 - e. clinical psychologist/psychiatrist/ CBT practitioner
 - f. other, please specify
4. For any doctors employed, please specify their specialism e.g. GP, cardiologist, neurologist
5. Does the service have the ability in-house to prescribe medications to long Covid patients?
6. If so, please list the 3 most common drugs prescribed for long Covid patients by the clinic
7. Does the service have the ability to order tests and scans?
8. If so please list the 3 most commonly ordered tests/scans/diagnostic questionnaires for long Covid patients by the clinic
9. Please provide figures for how many patients referred to the clinic/service received the following type of treatment:
 - a. A wellbeing programme
 - b. physical rehabilitation
 - c. psychological support
 - d. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 - e. drug treatment
 - f. other, please specify
10. If not provided in-house, which of the following types of services does the clinic/service refer patients on to or recommend?
 - a. A wellbeing programme
 - b. physical rehabilitation
 - c. psychological support
 - d. A brain retraining or Neuro Linguistic Programming-based course such as the Lightning Process, Gupta Programme or Nuffield programme (please specify which)
 - e. drug treatment
 - f. other, please specify

11. Is the clinic expected to continue running after 2025?

12. For English ICBS only* Which NHS trust is responsible for the care of patients referred to a long Covid clinic in your area?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all of the information requested for questions 6 and 8, as Long Covid patients would be referred back to their GP for their prescribing needs and for any tests or scans to be arranged.

Therefore, the individual GP Surgeries, with the exception of UHB Managed Practices, namely Ashgrove Medical Centre, Meddygfa Minafon, Meddygfa'r Sarn, Solva Surgery Tenby Surgery and Neyland and Johnston Surgery, would need to be contacted directly, as they are all managed independently.

These GP Practices hold their own information and consequently, the UHB does not have access to the details you require. Therefore, this information would need to be requested directly from the individual GP Practices. A link to all the GP Surgeries in the UHB's geographical area has been provided below:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/directory/gps/>

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 6 and 8 for the Managed GP Practices and question 9, 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 the data held for questions 6 and 8 for its Managed GP Practices, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Long Covid patient records to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

Similarly for question 9, a further manual trawl would be required to identify the number of patients referred to the treatments listed, as again, this information is not recorded centrally.

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, the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that it does have a Long Covid Service.
2. The UHB confirms that seven hundred and forty-five (745) patients have been referred to its Long Covid Service, as at 31 October 2023.
3. The UHB provides within the table below, the current Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of Long Covid staff, for the job roles listed.

	Job role	FTE
a.	Doctor	0
b.	Nurse	0.2
c.	Physiotherapist	1.6
d.	Occupational Therapist	1.4
e.	Clinical Psychologist/Psychiatrist/ CBT Practitioner	1.0
f.	other, please specify: Psychology Assistant Therapy Assistant Practitioner	1.0 1.0

4. The UHB confirms that it does not employ any doctors, specifically within the Long Covid service.
5. The UHB confirms that it does not prescribe medications in-house to Long Covid patients. Patients requiring medication are referred back to their GP or to an Acute Care Physician if required.
6. The UHB has applied a Section 12 exemption to the information held for its Managed GP Practices.
7. If a Long Covid patient requires tests or scans, they are referred back to their GP or to an Acute Care Physician if required.
8. The UHB has applied a Section 12 exemption to the information held for its Managed GP Practices.
9. A section 12 exemption has been applied. However, the UHB's Long Covid patients are offered access to wellbeing programmes, physical rehabilitation, psychological support and other support as part of a holistic approach to their individual needs.
10. Not applicable.
11. The UHB confirms that its Long Covid Service is expected to continue running after 2025.
12. Not applicable.