

Reference:	FOI.17024.25
Subject:	Management consultancy fees
Date of Request:	3 April 2025

Requested:

Please could you provide the following information:

- The year on year spend by Hywel Dda University Health Board on management consultancy fees since October 2009.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information requested is accessible by another means. The annual spend on management consultancy fees is contained within the UHB's Annual Accounts, which are already within the public domain and are available on our website:

For ease of reference, please click on the link below, which will take you directly to the UHB's webpage:

[Annual Reports](#)

Additionally, it is the UHB's intention to publish details of its 2024/25 Annual report and annual quality statement in due course, once they have been finalised. Therefore, this information is exempt under Section 22 of the FoIA, which states that information is exempt if it is intended that the information held by the public authority will be published at a future date.

This exemption is qualified and therefore, if information falls within Section 22, public authorities must apply a public interest test. The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in the UHB being open and transparent. The UHB's expenditure is a popular topic of discussion, with a significant amount of public interest. Due to the interest in the topic, it is within everyone's interests that financial information is shared, and that the public be kept informed of the manner in which the UHB opts to spend public funds.

Against Disclosure: The information being requested is currently being finalised and is to be published over coming months. The UHB has a duty to ensure it has appropriate time to consider the impact and issues arising from the UHB's financial position and disclosure of the information in its current form, which is not fully evaluated and quantified, could attract negative opinion. It is the UHB's opinion that providing information before it has been fully assessed and evaluated could cause the public's anxieties to be exacerbated, which in turn, could harm the UHB's relationship with its communities.

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the requested information at this time is greater than the interest in disclosing it, as the attention drawn from the disclosure could cause harm to the UHB and it is therefore applying a Section 22 exemption.

However, as part of the UHB's duty to provide advice and assistance, the UHB provides within the table below a summary of the annual spend on management consultancy fees from the 2009/10 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year; the latest year for which audited accounts are currently available.

Financial Year	Consultancy Spend in £'000
2009/10	429
2010/11	318
2011/12	240
2012/13	403
2013/14	1,215
2014/15	811
2015/16	317
2016/17	525
2017/18	993
2018/19	1,691
2019/20	1,518
2020/21	1,838
2021/22	1,741
2022/23	1,629
2023/24	410