

Reference:	FOI.16814.25
Subject:	Mental Health Act payment rates
Date of Request:	11 March 2025

Requested:

1. I am requesting the standard fee rate for MHA assessments that doctors seeing patients in your health board are paid. If this is not paid directly by the health board, please liase with the relevant council to find the rates.
2. Please provide typical rates to reimburse a doctor for MHA fee (and mileage rates) for each year since 2000 up to 2025 in a simple table with these two columns.

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 and 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 UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested from 2000 to 2009, as the UHB was not formed until 1 October 2009. Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with information prior to 2016, as the rates and payments were not recorded centrally and were processed by staff. Therefore, in order to provide you with all of the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of records to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request.

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, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA and therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that there are two (2) different rates of payment to doctors for undertaking a Mental Health Assessment, and this is based on a special qualification a doctor can acquire that makes them Section 12(2) approved. Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the standard fee rate doctors undertaking a Mental Health Assessment are paid based on the qualification they hold.

Assessor type	Fee
Section 12 (2) - Approved	£173.37
Section 12 - Unapproved	£53.76

*Please note: the standard fee rate has remained the same from 2016 to present.

2. Please refer to the response to question 1 for information on Mental Health Assessment fees. Additionally, the UHB provides, within the table below, the mileage rates paid to doctors during the period 2016 to 2025.

Vehicle Type / Engine Capacity	Payment
Up to 1000cc	.424p
1001 – 1500cc	.523p
Over 1501cc	.583p
Electric Vehicles	.44p