

Reference:	FOI.2529.20
Subject:	Mesothelioma
Date of Request:	13 February 2020

Requested:

The number of patients both male and female diagnosed with Mesothelioma over a 10 year period, from January 2010 to December 2019.

- The number of male patients diagnosed with Mesothelioma for each of the above years;
- The number of female patients diagnosed with Mesothelioma for each of the above years;
- The number of each type of Mesothelioma (Epithelioid, Sarcomatoid, Peritoneal) that the above patients were diagnosed with;
- If there is a record of this, how many of the above had work related asbestos exposure.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has provided the number of male and female patients who have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2019 within the table overleaf. The figures have been broken down into annual totals and the number of patients diagnosed with each type of Mesothelioma.

Year	Total	Male	Female
2019	12	12	0
2018	4	3	*
2017	13	**	*
2016	13	**	*
2015	6	6	0
2014	17	**	*
2013	12	**	*
2012	14	**	*
2011	7	**	*
2010	6	6	0

Type	Epithelioid	Fibrous	Biphasic	Unspecified
Total	66	13	6	19

Where the figures in the table have 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 (5 and under) as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Figures have also been replaced with a double asterisk (**) if there is a risk that the number redacted patients could be calculated. The UHB is 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.

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients who were recorded as having had work related asbestos exposure, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the number of patients who were recorded as having work related asbestos exposure, the UHB would be required to conduct a manual trawl of the medical records of the patients diagnosed with Mesothelioma, to identify if there was mention of work related asbestos exposure.

It is estimated that this would cost:

104 patients @ 15 minutes per patient record = 26 hours
26 hours @ £25 per hours = £650

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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*.