

Reference:	FOI.16533.25
Subject:	Microbiology
Date of Request:	5 February 2025

Requested:

Please could you kindly complete the spreadsheet attached to provide information on the microbiology, virology and molecular tests carried out within the Pathology Laboratory at the Trust over the previous 2 calendar years (April 2023 - March 2025).

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.

The UHB has one Microbiology Department, which is situated at Withybush General Hospital, Haverfordwest. In order to provide you with the information requested around microbiology, virology and molecular tests, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patient records, to identify patients who have had these tests undertaken or any information that may fulfil your request, as 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 around microbiology, virology and molecular tests undertaken at WGH for the time period requested, within Attachment 1.

It should be noted that all other UHB microbiology testing is undertaken by Public Health Wales (PHW). Therefore, we recommend that you redirect your request to PHW for further information. Their contact details are provided below:

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

Email phw.foi@wales.nhs.uk

It should also be noted that the UHB refers some tests to other Health Boards and organisations. The organisations the UHB has referred tests to are included in Attachment 1 and their contact details are provided below.

- Swansea Bay University Health Board
Headquarters,
One Talbot Gateway,
Baglan Energy Park,
Baglan,
Port Talbot,
SA12 7BR

Email FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

Email FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

- Public Health England
Bacteriology Reference Department (BRD)
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5EQ

Telephone 020 8327 7887