

Reference:	FOI.12572.23
Subject:	Neurology tests
Date of Request:	4 September 2023

Requested:

Thank you for considering my FOI request. In your response to my previous inquiry, you said that it's not feasible to say which diagnostic procedures specifically test for Alzheimer's.

Could you please instead tell me the number of patients referred by neurology to be tested using:

Lumbar puncture
PET (if applicable)
SPECT (if applicable)
MRI/CT

Like the previous request, I'm interested in neurology-referred patients tested in the previous 12 months.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) or Single-Photon Emission Computerized Tomography (SPECT). The UHB's patients that require these tests are seen in Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB).

Therefore, we recommend that you redirect these parts of your request to the Freedom of Information Team at SBUHB who may be able to help you further. The contact details are as follows:

FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: FOIA Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Health Board Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested for lumbar punctures, 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 requested for lumbar punctures, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Neurology referrals, for the previous twelve (12) months, to identify the information that would fulfil your request, as this 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 confirms that one hundred and fifty-six (156) Neurology patients were referred for a Computerised Tomography (CT) scan and two thousand, two hundred and nineteen (2,219) Neurology patients were referred for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan, between 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.