

Reference:	FOI.1693.19
Subject:	Nitrous oxide
Date of Request:	11 October 2019

Requested

1. The number of patients treated via accident and emergency departments in your health board where the recorded reason for them seeking treatment included issues arising as a result of them taking, or after them having taken, “nitrous oxide”, “nos”, “noz”, “laughing gas”, “hippy crack” or “hippie crack”.
2. The number of in-patients admitted to a hospital or clinic within your health board area for help for issues recorded as having arisen as a result of them taking, or after them having taken, “nitrous oxide”, “nos”, “noz”, “laughing gas”, “hippy crack”, or “hippie crack”.
3. The number of patients referred for specialist treatment or help within your health board area where the recorded reason for their referral is recorded as issues having arisen as a result of them taking, or after them having taken, “nitrous oxide”, “nos”, “noz”, “laughing gas”, “hippy crack” or “hippie crack”.

*In the cases of 1, 2 and 3, could you please itemise the figure for each year. In the case of 3, can you please break this figure down by the type of specialist treatment or help involved in the referrals?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested, 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 requested information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of patient records across all of the UHB’s Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments, subsequent record of admission and all referrals to identify any information that fulfils your request.

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