Reference:	FOI.2472.20
Subject:	Opioids
Date of Request:	5 February 2020

Requested:

- Over the last five years, or if later than five years from whenever records were kept, how many people were prescribed an opioid within your health board area?

  Also, please could you provide a year by year breakdown of the figures?

- How many people have been taking a prescribed opioid for more than:

  Three Years?

  Five Years?

  Ten Years?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of patients who prescribed with Opioids, 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.

The UHB's pharmacy system does not store patient data in a reportable manner, in order to provide you with the information being requested the UHB would be required to cross reference every record for a dispensed Opioid with patient records.

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*.

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. We have therefore provided the number of Opioids dispensed each calendar year between 1 January 2015 and 30 November 2019 within Attachment 1. The UHB is unable to provide data up to the end of 2019, as there is a delay in the reporting on the pharmacy system. Please note the figures provided represent each unit of issue, so this could be one patch, tablet, bottle or pack dependent on the preparation.