

Reference:	FOI.19140.25
Subject:	Outsourced Mental Health Services (MHS)
Date of Request:	17 December 2025

Requested:

Please provide information relating to expenditure on outsourced / privately provided mental health care by your Health Board (Hywel Dda University Health Board).

For the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 (to date), please provide:

1. Total annual spend on outsourced or privately provided mental health services, including (but not limited to):
 - Inpatient mental health placements
 - Secure or forensic mental health placements
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) placements
 - Community-based mental health services delivered by private providers
 - a. Please categorise this spend by provider, showing:
 - Name of provider
 - Total amount paid to each provider per financial year
2. Specific expenditure relating to Elysium Healthcare, including:
 - a. Total amount paid to Elysium Healthcare per financial year
 - b. Type of services commissioned from Elysium Healthcare (e.g. inpatient, secure, CAMHS)
1. Where available, the number of patients / placements funded with private providers per financial year.

If any of the above information is held but not recorded in the requested format, please provide it in the closest available format. If Information is not available for all requests please provide the information of those that you can.

Clarifications

- This request relates only to mental health services.
- Please include expenditure funded directly by the Health Board, even where placements are arranged via frameworks or third-party commissioning arrangements.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to part of question 1a and question 2a, as the costs requested relate to third parties and disclosure would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company.

Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors.

- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against Disclosure: Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and may cause substantial harm to the provider, as it would disclose their pricing, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

Decision: The UHB has decided that releasing all of the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the provider's competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body, and that there is a public interest in ensuring that there is competition for public sector contracts.

The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the contract costs for its outsourced mental health service providers, is greater than the interest in disclosing it.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with all the information requested for questions 1 and 3, 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 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" 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.

To provide you with all the data requested for question 1, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of its finance systems, to identify any additional information for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years, that may fulfil this part of your request, as not all the information requested is recorded centrally.

For question 3, a manual trawl of MHS systems and patient records for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years would be required to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request, as again the information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request for questions 1 and 3 for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years, due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of systems and patient records to be undertaken to identify any of the information requested.

1. An exemption under Section 12 applied to part of your request. Under Section 16, the UHB provides within the table below, the total spend identified on outsourced MHS, for the 2021/22 to 2023/24 financial years and the period 1 April to 30 November 2025.

Financial year	Spend
2021/22	£444,051.00
2022/23	£407,760.00
2023/24	£6,560,795.50
2024/25	£9,354,550.43
1 April to 30 November 2025	£7,771,300.01
Total	£24,538,456.94

a. An exemption under Section 43 of the FoIA has been applied to the amount paid to each outsourced provider. However, the UHB provides a list below of the outsourced MHS providers used for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) assessments, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities (MHL) care and outsourced inpatient beds.

- Adferiad – Carmarthenshire
- Adferiad – Ceredigion
- Adferiad – Pembrokeshire
- Advocacy West Wales
- Age Cymru
- Arts Care
- Carmarthen Mind
- Carmarthenshire Counselling
- Carmarthenshire People First
- Cheadle Royal Hospital
- Cygnet Healthcare
- Elysium Healthcare
- Get The Boys a Lift
- Healios
- HUTS Workshop
- Kinora
- Links
- Lives Through Friends CIC
- Llanelli Mind
- Men2Men – Carmarthenshire
- Men2Men – Pembrokeshire
- Mind Aberystwyth
- Ontrack Education Solutions Ltd

- Partnerships In Care Ltd
- Pembrokeshire Mind
- Pembrokeshire People First
- Pembrokeshire counselling service
- Pobl
- Problem Shared
- The Priory Group
- The VC Gallery
- West Wales Action for Mental Health

2a. An exemption under Section 43 of the FoIA applied.

2b. The UHB provides the MHS commissioned from Elysium Healthcare below:

- Locked rehabilitation
- Low secure
- Open rehabilitation
- Residential

3. An exemption under Section 12 applied to part of your request. Under Section 16, the UHB provides within the table below the number of funded MHS Continuing Healthcare patient placements with private providers, during the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years and the period 1 April to 31 December 2025.

Financial year	Number
2023/24	9
2024/25	12
1 April to 30 November 2025	8

Additionally, the UHB provides within the table below the number of outsourced ADHD assessments for the 2024/25 financial year (12-month contract) and the number of outsourced ASD assessments for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 (3-year contract).

Financial year	ADHD	ASD
2022/23		196
2023/24		292
2024/25	325	1,041
Total	325	1,529