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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.21130.26    |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Pathology tests |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 24 July 2026    |

**Requested:**

We would be grateful if you could provide the information requested in the attached spreadsheet.

Specifically, for each pathology test listed, please provide the annual test volumes for your most recent complete reporting period, either:

- Financial Year (e.g. 2025/26), or
- Calendar Year (2025),  
whichever is most readily available.

1. Where possible, please provide the number of tests performed under the following categories:

- a. Core Laboratory Test Numbers per Annum
- b. Point of Care/Rapid Test Numbers per Annum
- c. Sent Away/Referred Test Numbers per Annum

If a particular category is not applicable or the information is not held, please indicate this by entering "N/A" or leaving the relevant cell blank.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all the information requested. The laboratories in Bronglais General Hospital, Glangwili General Hospital and Prince Philip Hospital are provided by Public Health Wales (PHW), who have direct management of the laboratories.

We therefore recommend that you redirect your request for the hospitals mentioned above to the Freedom of Information Team in Public Health Wales (PHW), who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details for PHW are as follows:-

[Foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk) or alternatively, you can contact: Freedom of Information Office, Public Health Wales, Floor 3, 2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

The UHB is unable to provide you with all the information requested for its laboratory in Withybush General Hospital (WGH), 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 the data for the categories requested for a and b, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all pathology diagnostic test records to identify how the tests were conducted. The information requested for c would require a manual trawl of packing slips to identify the packing slip numbers, which would then need to be cross referenced individually on the Laboratory Information System (LIMS) to identify the test categories that were sent away during the requested time period, as the information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that two thousand, seven hundred and fifty-five (2,755) diagnostic tests were undertaken in the 2025 calendar year alone. It is estimated that a manual search of these records would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search of digital records taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would far exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following:

2,755 @ 5 minutes per record = 228 hours and 40 minutes  
228 hours and 40 minutes @ £25 per hour = £5,716.75

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 further. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of all diagnostic tests to be undertaken and analysed, to identify information that may fulfil your request.

However, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for its laboratory in WGH for the 2025 calendar year, within the spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.