

Reference:	FOI.5523.21
Subject:	Personality disorders
Date of Request:	8 March 2021

Requested:

1. Quantity of referrals to the personality disorder service requesting Dialectical Behavioural Therapy between 2018 - 2020.
2. Demographics of referrals made including: Age, Gender, and Ethnicity between 2018 -2020.
3. Did referrals outline a diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder and/or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?
4. Any known history of sexual trauma for women referred for Dialectical Behavioural Therapy?
5. Average time that women are under the care of mental health services prior to referral to the personality disorder service for Dialectical behavioural therapy?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of 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 (2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the requested information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Psychological Therapy patient records to identify any information that fulfils your request, as this information 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.

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 and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested. Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) referrals, by age group and gender, during the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

2018 to 2020		
Age group	Male	Female
18-20	*	22
21-30	13	77
31-40	7	40
41-50	*	21
51-60	0	*
61-70	*	*

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.