

Reference:	FOI.1595.19
Subject:	Pest control
Date of Request:	19 September 2019

Requested

I would like to know:

1. how frequently over the past five years, to September 2019 or as recently as you hold the data, pest control services have been called to your hospitals, with the data broken down by year.
2. I would like to know the reason behind these call-outs
3. ... and the cost to the health board

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide the information requested in relation to pest control and costs as it is estimated that the cost 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 maintenance issues are reported via an internal system, whilst the UHB is able to run reports from the system, each of the reports would need to be manually interrogated to establish the details and date of the maintenance complaint. Additionally, in order to provide the cost information the UHB would be required to run financial reports for each of its sites and subsequently manually interrogate each of these reports to identify works and costs carried out within the periods requested.

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 FOI, 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 FOI Act and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the type of pest control, the number of times pest control were contacted to visit hospitals within the UHB and the total spend on pest control for the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20.

	Bronglais General Hospital		Glangwili General Hospital		Prince Philip Hospital		Withybush General Hospital	
	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20
Ants	2	1	1	4	4	8	10	0
Bed bugs	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bees	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Biting insects	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0
Cockroach	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Firebrats	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fleas	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Flies	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Flying Ants	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0
Mice	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Rats	1	1	0	7	3	3	5	3
Rodents	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Squirrel	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wasps	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Wasps nest	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Woodlice	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total spend	£150.00	£198.95	£3870.00	£2427.00	£715.00	£1064.00	£6245.00	£330.00

The total spend provided includes call outs, treatments, routine visits, follow up visits and rat riddance and disinfection.

The UHB has received a previous requests for information relating to pest control for the financial year 2015/16. The information is already accessible within the public domain, the UHB has therefore applied a Section 21 exemption as the information is accessible by another means. In order to access these requests, which are published on the UHB's disclosure log, please use the link's below.

FOI-382-16

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/FOI-382-16.pdf>

FOI-002-17

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/FOI-002-17.pdf>