Reference:	FOI.7389.21
Subject:	Positive COVID-19 staff
Date of Request:	10 November 2021

Requested:

1. How many staff were identified as being positive for covid in the 2 weeks leading up to the 9th December, therefore in work asymptomatic?

2. What was the staff testing policy in that 2 week period too.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the requested information, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (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.

   The UHB does not ordinarily record details of staff COVID-19 testing and therefore does not hold a central record of staff members' test results. In order to provide you with the data being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a search of all COVID-19 related absences recorded on the UHB's Electronic Staff Record (ESR) and cross reference the staff members identified with their 'Return to Work' Absence Review Form, for the two week period required, to identify if any of the information required was recorded.

   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.

2. As this information is already within the public domain, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA, as the information is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered a similar Freedom of Information request, FOI.6796.21, which is available on our disclosure log.

   For ease of reference please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

   https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-logs/hospital-staff-covid-19-testing/