

Reference:	FOI.6299.21
Subject:	Prescribed contraceptives
Date of Request:	23 June 2021

Requested:

1. How many people in your area have been prescribed the contraceptive pill in the following years:
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2. How many people in your area have had their prescription to the contraceptive pill renewed in the same years?
3. How many people in your area have had a coil fitted in the following years:
2018
2019
2020
4. How many people in your area have had the contraceptive implant put in over the following years:
2018
2019
2020
5. How many people in your area have been prescribed or undertaken another form of contraception over the following years:
2018
2019
2020

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 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, as well as locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Contraceptives are prescribed or fitted by various settings across the UHB and not all information is recorded centrally, due to independent systems in place. In order to provide you with all the information requested, the UHB would need to liaise with each of the forty eight (48) GP Practices and undertake a manual trawl of patient records to identify prescriptions across all healthcare settings.

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.

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 FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides below, the information available from Primary and Secondary Care, where appropriate to the question and the UHB's Sexual Health settings and Managed GP Practices.

1. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the number of people that have been prescribed the contraceptive pill, in its Sexual Health Departments and Managed GP Practices, during the calendar years 2016 to 2020.

Calendar year	Sexual health	Managed practices
2016	Section 12 exemption	201
2017	1,146	216
2018	1,200	219
2019	1,201	222
2020	494	234

Additionally, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of packs of contraceptive pills dispensed, for both Primary and Secondary care, during the calendar years 2016 to 2020.

Calendar year	Primary care	Secondary care
2016	4,485,508	389,161
2017	4,390,676	418,730
2018	4,220,922	503,828
2019	4,055,734	737,069
2020	3,898,990	571,241

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of people that have had their contraceptive pill prescription renewed, during the calendar years 2017 to 2020.

Calendar year	Sexual health	Managed practices
2016	Section 12 exemption	23
2017	948	37
2018	1,257	84
2019	1,522	42
2020	1,459	61

3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of people that have had a coil fitted, during the calendar years 2018 to 2020.

Calendar year	Sexual health	Managed practices
2018	1,111	13
2019	1,270	7
2020	1,144	*

Where the figure in the table has 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 FoIA. 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.

4. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of people that have received the contraceptive implant, during the calendar years 2018 to 2020.

Calendar year	Sexual health	Managed practices
2018	2,698	14
2019	2,814	9
2020	1,966	6

5. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of people that have been prescribed or undertaken another form of contraception, during the calendar years 2018 to 2020.

Calendar year	Sexual health	Managed practices
2018	1,818	44
2019	2,228	48
2020	1,730	46