

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.4506.20
<b>Subject:</b>	Prescribed medications
<b>Date of Request:</b>	12 November 2020

**Requested:**

Please state, in the form of a yearly breakdown for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 (up to the most recent month of available information for Hywel Dda University Health Board:

1. The number of people prescribed medication for acne purposes - please break down and identify gender, age, and ethnicity of patients
2. Identify the name of what drug was prescribed and in what quantity
3. Where possible, please identify the length of prescription per patient, if acne is identified as moderate or severe
4. Please identify the cost of prescribed product
5. Please include any contraceptive medication prescribed to women with acne or skin issues stated as the reason: eg. combined oral contraceptive pills such as Cilest, Rigevidon, Microgynon, Marvelon, Yasmin, Logynon, Microgynon ED.

Please break down information per geographical area if possible eg. GP practice, trusts, sexual health clinics.

If possible, please could data be sent to me in Excel, not as a PDF.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 3 and 5, 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, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information requested, the UHB would need to cross reference the dispensed medications with the patient records to identify any information that fulfils your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the information as requested, for questions 1, 2 and 4 within the attached Excel spreadsheet, Attachment 1.

Where the figures in the tables for question 1 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 has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (\*\*). 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.