

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.022
<b>Subject:</b>	Prescribing of laxatives
<b>Date of Request:</b>	17 January 2019

**Requested**

Could you please provide the following information for each of last five financial years (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18), breaking each down by year and by the type of medication:

1. The number of prescriptions for Movicol or other laxative or continence medicines for constipation given to children aged 16 or under.
2. The number of patients aged 16 or under who have received a prescription for Movicol or other laxative or continence medicines for constipation.
3. The total cost for these prescriptions for each of these years.
4. The number of patients under the age of 16 who have been admitted to a hospital in your health board area for constipation or continence problems (not incontinence problems) in each of these years, broken down by each year.

**Response:**

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients aged under 16, 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.

The pharmaceutical systems within the UHB do not typically record patient details, to be able to accurately provide you with the number of patients prescribed with the laxatives or continence medicines who were aged 16 and under the UHB would be required to cross reference the pharmaceutical record with the patient record.

It is estimated that conducting a manual trawl of the records required would take approximately two minutes per record, totalling 2,471 hours.

74,136 prescriptions @ 2 minutes per record = 2,471 hours  
 2,471 x £25 per hour = £61,775

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 FOIA the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance, the UHB has therefore provided the number of prescriptions issued along with the cost of these prescriptions within Attachment 1. Additionally the UHB has provided the number of admissions of patients aged under 16 due to constipation or continence problems within the given timeframe within the table overleaf.

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bronglais General Hospital</b>	52	80	69	96	78	375
<b>Glangwili General Hospital</b>	126	132	203	129	156	746
<b>Withybush General Hospital</b>	85	43	36	67	46	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1398</b>