

Reference:	FOI.19859.26
Subject:	Prostate screening
Date of Request:	10 March 2026

Requested:

t would be great to go back 10 years to 2016, if possible, please? So, we would be after the total number of prostate screening appointments each (financial) year since March 2016 to March 2026 please and in particular the number of prostate screening appointments for men aged 45-61years (at the time of their appointments).

Clarified:

We mean a prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test is carried out.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (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 centrally record all the information requested as its system only holds information from the 2021/22 financial year onwards. Therefore, in order to provide the information requested for the 2016/17 to 2020/21 financial years, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of patient medical records to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request.

Additionally, to provide you with the data by age as requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) tests performed for the ten (10) year period requested, to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that thirty-seven thousand, two hundred and seventy-six (37,276) PSA tests were undertaken in the 2024/25 financial year alone. It is estimated that a manual search of these records only would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search of digital records taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

37,276 @ 5 minutes per record = 3,093 hours and 54 minutes
3,093 hours and 54 minutes @ £25 per hour = £77,347.50

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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 the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request further. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of patient medical records and PSA tests performed to be undertaken to identify information that may fulfil your request.

The UHB therefore provides within the table below, the number of PSA tests performed, for all ages, during the 2021/22 to 2024/25 financial years and the period 1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026.

Financial year	Number
2021/22	27,722
2022/23	32,130
2023/24	34,094
2024/25	37,276
1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026	Approx 39,000