

Reference:	FOI.19283.26
Subject:	Psychiatric care
Date of Request:	12 January 2026

Requested:

1. I would like to know from 2015 to 2025, how many in patients on general medical wards required psychiatric input whilst an inpatient on general medicine wards.
2. And out of those patients that required psychiatric input how many required a mental health act assessment.
3. And out of those patients how many were sectioned under the mental health act assessment.
4. And out of those that needed psychiatric input how many required outside mental health trained staff to provide level 1 observations.
5. And what was the cost to the health board to employ mental health trained staff either via bank shifts or agency staff to provide the observation levels to patients on a general medicine ward.

I would appreciate the information being provided in both numeric and percentages per hospital. Including the number of general medicine wards included in the data.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested for question 2, as requests for assessments under the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007) (MHA) are directed to the relevant Local Authority (LA). We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Teams within each LA in the UHB's footprint, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Their contact details are provided below:

- Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk
- Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

The UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 1, 4 and 5, 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.

In order to provide you with the information for questions 1, 4 and 5, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all inpatient records across the UHB, to identify any information that may fulfil these parts of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

As recorded on the Welsh Government (WG) Stats Wales website, the daily average number of occupied beds across all settings in the UHB, was one thousand and nineteen (1,019) during the 2023/24 financial year (most recent published data available). It is estimated that a manual search of these records alone would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of inpatients identified, conducting a search of patient records taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following:

1,019 @ 5 minutes per record = 84 hours and 34 minutes
84 hours and 34 minutes @ £25 per hour = £2,114.18

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.

The UHB suggests that you may refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested. However, the UHB would still be required to undertake a manual search of patient records to identify any information to fulfil your request, and therefore, the outcome may be the same.

Furthermore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for question 3 below.

3. The UHB does not hold the information exactly as requested as the UHB records the information in financial years. Therefore, the UHB provides within the table overleaf, the number of detentions under the MHA that occurred within general ward settings for the 2015/16 to 2024/25 financial years and the period 1 April 2025 to 13 January 2026.

Financial year	Number
2015/16	35
2016/17	43
2017/18	39
2018/19	28
2019/20	16
2020/21	35

Financial year	Number
2021/22	26
2022/23	21
2023/24	42
2024/25	42
01.04.2025 to 13.01.2026	17