

Reference:	FOI.18827.25
Subject:	Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services (PRS)
Date of Request:	13 November 2025

Requested:

Please provide responses to the following for the most recent full financial year (April 2024 – March 2025).

1. Who is the person responsible for commissioning pulmonary rehabilitation services within your organisation? Please include their name, job title, and contact email if available.
2. Which provider organisations are currently delivering pulmonary rehabilitation services under contract with your organisation?
3. How many people were referred to pulmonary rehabilitation during the most recent full financial year?
4. Of those referred, how many completed a full pulmonary rehabilitation programme during the same period?
5. For which primary conditions or diagnoses do you refer patients to pulmonary rehabilitation?
6. How many individuals are currently on a waiting list for pulmonary rehabilitation, and what is the average waiting time if available?
7. What types or formats of pulmonary rehabilitation are currently offered (for example, face-to-face, home-based, or digital such as MyCOPD)?
8. What outcome measures are used to evaluate pulmonary rehabilitation services (e.g. CAT score, six-minute walk test)?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 4, 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.

To provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all PRS referrals received for the 2024/25 financial year, to identify how many completed a full pulmonary rehabilitation programme, as it is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that eight hundred and thirty-four (834) referrals were received into its PRS, during the 2024/25 financial year. It is estimated that a manual search of these records 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:

834 @ 5 minutes per record = 69 hours and 13 minutes
69 hours and 13 minutes @ £25 per hour = £1,730.55

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 undertake a manual search of the returned items to identify the information to fulfil your request and so the outcome would be dependent on the number of referrals identified within a shorter time period.

1. The UHB does not hold the requested information as it does not commission PRS.
2. The UHB delivers the PRS.
3. The UHB received eight hundred and thirty-four (834) referrals into its PRS, during the 2024/25 financial year.
4. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA applied.
5. The primary conditions or diagnoses for referring patients to the PRS include, but are not limited to Asthma, Bronchiectasis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD), Interstitial Lung Disease, Fibrosis, Pneumonitis, Non-surgical Lung Cancer, Asbestosis and Chronic Lung disease.
6. There were three hundred and six (306) patients on the waiting list for Pulmonary Rehabilitation, as of 30 November 2025, with an average wait of fifteen and half (15.5) weeks.
7. The UHBs PRS currently offers face to face group programmes.
8. The UHB uses the measures listed below to evaluate PRS:
 - EuroQol (EQ) 5DL
 - Six-minute walk test
 - Medical Research Council (MRC) dyspnoea scale
 - Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) 9
 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) 7
 - Self-evaluation of breathing
 - COPD Bristol Questionnaire
 - COPD Assessment Test (CAT) Score