

Reference:	FOI.8779.22
Subject:	Referrals to Rheumatology
Date of Request:	25 April 2022

Requested:

It would be great if you could provide your answers to this Freedom of Information by completing and returning the attached Word document. We would also welcome the supply of any supporting documents to evidence the internal referral pathways.

1. On behalf of which Trust are you responding?

Part

1 – Internal Referral Pathways and screening tools

2. Does your trust have an internal referral pathway to rheumatology from:

a) Dermatology

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure / don't know

b) Gastroenterology

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure / don't know

c) Ophthalmology

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure / don't know

3. Please give details of any standard internal pathways in place. Please attach any documents to support this.

4. What referral protocols are in place? e.g. are patients referred back to the GP with

consideration / instruction to refer onward for rheumatology opinion.

5. Does your trust utilise any screening tools such as Dublin Uveitis Evaluation Tool (DUET) or Psoriasis Epidemiology Screening Tool (PEST):

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure / don't know

6. Please give details of any screening tools in place. Please attach any documents to support this.

Part
2 –

Internal referral volumes

7. Are you able to track internal referral volumes on your systems?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure / don't know

8. How often do you receive referrals for suspected axial SpA in rheumatology from:

a) Dermatology

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly

☐ Less often

☐ Never

b) Gastroenterology

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly

☐ Less often

☐ Never

c) Ophthalmology

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly

☐ Less often

☐ Never

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 8, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (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 all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all Rheumatology patient referrals, to identify which service they were referred from, as this information is not recorded centrally.

I can confirm that one hundred and sixty five (165) Rheumatology referrals were received in April 2022. Therefore, conducting the search would far exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following:

165 @ 15 minutes per item = 41.25 hours

41.25 hours @ £25 per hour = £1,031.25

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (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 FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the information it holds for questions 1 to 7, within Attachment 1 as requested.