

Reference:	FOI.3026.20
Subject:	Retinal dystrophy
Date of Request:	24 April 2020

Requested:

1. How many patients with Inherited Retinal Dystrophy or Hereditary Retinal Dystrophy are registered within your Ophthalmology service?
2. What is the total number of Inherited Retinal Dystrophy or Hereditary Retinal Dystrophy patients that have been seen in clinic in the 4 month period Nov 2019-Feb 2020?
3. How many new Inherited Retinal Dystrophy or Hereditary Retinal Dystrophy patients have been seen in clinic in the 4 month period Nov 2019-Feb 2020?

Response:

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

In order to provide you with this information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all ophthalmology patient records for the period requested to identify any information that fulfils your request.

The number of patients seen in ophthalmology between November 2019 and February 2020 was 17,859; therefore, conducting the search would far exceed the 'appropriate level', costing the UHB the following:

17,859 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 71,436 hours
71,436 hours @ £25 per hours = £1,785,900.00

Therefore, the UHB applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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.