

Reference:	FOI.2458.20
Subject:	Rheumatology services
Date of Request:	5 February 2020

Requested:

1. How many rheumatology patients are there under Hywel Dda UHB?
2. Of those patients, how many are diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis?
3. Of those patients, how many are diagnosed with Lupus, MCTD, UCTD or Sjogrens Syndrome?
4. How many Rheumatology patients are diagnosed with Fibromyalgia only – no other diagnosis – and discharged from Rheumatology care, in a 12month period?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) currently has 4,808 patients on the Rheumatology follow up waiting list.
2. – 4. The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients who have been diagnosed with specific conditions or when the patients were discharged from care, 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 the information requested the UHB would be required to conduct a manual search of all Rheumatology patient records to identify the number of patients diagnosed with each of the named conditions and how soon patients diagnosed with Fibromyalgia were discharged from Rheumatology care. It is estimated that this would cost:

4,808 patients @ 5 minutes per patient record = 400.5 hours
400.5 hours @ £25 per hours = £10,012.50

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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*.