

Reference:	FOI.2004.19
Subject:	Sativex prescriptions
Date of Request:	22 November 2019

Requested:

I would like to know about Sativex prescriptions given by the Hywel Dda University Health Board since 2014.

Specifically, I would like to know the following:

- How many patients have been prescribed Sativex since 2014 by your health board? I would like this to be broken up into figures for each year since 2014 – preferably with each year’s data starting from August or the earliest date in which prescriptions were recorded. If this is not possible I’m happy to receive it as calendar or financial year, but please specify which is supplied.

If possible I would also like to know how much is spent on Sativex in each of the corresponding calendar/financial years by your Health Board.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of 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 the requested information the UHB would need to manually scrutinise all patient records for the years 2014 to the date of your request to identify the number of patients prescribed Sativex.

The UHB is therefore 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.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act 2000, 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 FOI Act and therefore can provide you with some of the information requested.

The UHB has provided you with the number of packs dispensed and the total cost of these packs for the requested timeframe within Attachment 1.