

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.16436.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Service wait times
<b>Date of Request:</b>	22 January 2025

**Requested:**

1. Drug-Related Death Statistics:
  - a) Annual drug-related deaths for the years 2018–2024 within Hywel Dda University Health Board’s jurisdiction.
  - b) National data for Wales for the same period, if available.
  - c) Breakdown by age, gender, and substances involved, if possible.
  
2. Waiting Times for Support Services and current average waiting times for:
  - a) Trauma counselling
  - b) ADHD diagnosis and treatment (including medication).
  - c) Substance abuse services.
  - d) Historical waiting times from 2018 to 2024 for these services, if available.
  
3. Child Protection Data:
  - a) Number of children currently on child protection plans due to parental substance abuse within Hywel Dda University Health Board’s area.
  - b) National statistics for Wales for comparison.
  - c) Any available data on long-term outcomes for children impacted by drug-related deaths in their families.

**Clarification**

I am requesting information for both children and adults

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for question 2b of your request, as it is estimated that the cost of answering this request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

As the data requested for question 2b is not collated and recorded centrally, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patient records, to identify patients who received a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) for the time period requested, to identify any information that may fulfil your request.

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. & 3. The UHB regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested on drug related death statistics, as the cause of death is determined by the Coroner, who is appointed by the Local Authority. Additionally, the UHB does not hold information on children protection plans due to parental substance abuse. We therefore recommend that you redirect these parts of your request to the Freedom of Information Teams within each Local Authority in the UHB's footprint, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Their contact details are set out below:

- Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email [foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)
- Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email [foi@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:foi@ceredigion.gov.uk)
- Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email [FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

2a. The UHB does not provide counselling, as this is a commissioned service. However, the UHB does provide complex trauma specific psychotherapies. Details of these are as follows:

#### Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS)

- Carmarthenshire LPMHSS - UHB commissioned Counselling Service through Carmarthenshire Counselling Service
- Pembrokeshire LPMHSS - UHB commissioned Counselling Service through Pembrokeshire Counselling Service.
- South Ceredigion patients requiring counselling will be referred to Carmarthenshire Counselling Service or Area 43, a UHB commissioned service for those under the age of 30 years.
- North Ceredigion – LPMHSS has a 0.6 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Counsellor who carries a small caseload; there are approximately 30 individuals waiting up to 12 months.
- All three teams deliver SPRING (trauma-based intervention) with the longest wait being 16 weeks.

#### Integrated Psychological Therapies Service (IPTs)

- This service offers High Intensity treatment for complex trauma through Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. The longest wait for this treatment is 121 weeks (part of the extended wait is due to patient specific requirements).

2b. The UHB has applied a Section 12 exemption to information on children who have received a diagnosis of ADHD. However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB provides within the table overleaf, details of the number of children and the waiting times for an assessment for ADHD, during January 2025.

Wait Time	Under 11 weeks	12 – 17 weeks	18 – 25 weeks	26 – 35 weeks	36 – 51 weeks	More than 52 weeks	Total
Jan 2025	214	82	51	123	166	101	737

The UHB is unable to provide accurate timescales for adult ADHD assessments and treatment. However, the average wait time for a patient to receive medication is 20 weeks. The service is working at pace to map out its service provision in line with the Welsh Government policy and to bring about more efficiencies. Additionally, the UHB provides within the table overleaf, the wait time for adults to receive a diagnostic assessment and treatment wait times as of 31 December 2024.

Wait time for Diagnostic Assessment	Wait time for treatment (medication)
3,710	564

2c. The substance misuse treatment system is a four (4) tiered system. The UHB only provides or manages the services for the Tier 2 and 3 services. As a result, the table below provides the average wait time in days from referral to treatment for Tiers 2 and 3, for the period 1 April – 31 December 2024 (quarters 1 to 3).

Year	All Referrals	Alcohol Referrals	Drugs Referrals
2024-25	16	17	14

2d. The UHB provides, within the table below, the historical wait times for children awaiting an assessment for ADHD for each of the requested years; for ease the figures have been taken from the September of each year. The UHB is unable to provide the data requested prior to 2019 as the information was not recorded.

Number of children awaiting an ADHD assessment						
Wait Time	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Sept 2024
Under 11 weeks	12	6	47	49	86	150
12 – 17 weeks	14	7	5	19	60	71
18 – 25 weeks	22	14	10	14	43	99
26 – 35 weeks	23	29	18	13	40	123
36 – 51 weeks	55	48	23	27	33	123
More than 52 weeks	153	263	268	280	138	138
<b>Total</b>	279	367	371	402	400	704

The table below provides the historical average wait time in days for substance abuse services.

Year	All Referrals	Alcohol Referrals	Drugs Referrals
2023-24	14	15	12
2022-23	14	15	13
2021-22	14	13	14
2020-21	11	11	11
2019-20	12	12	11
2018-19	10	11	9

Additionally, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA, as some of the information is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered similar Freedom of Information requests, as below, which are already within the public domain and are available on our disclosure log:

- FOI.6983.21 - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Assessments
- FOI.11487.23 - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) services

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

[Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)