

Reference:	FOI.2702.20
Subject:	Sex therapy and labiaplasty procedures
Date of Request:	11 March 2020

Requested:

Under the freedom of information act, could you please provide the following information for each of the last five calendar years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), broken down by year:

1. The number of patients given an initial assessment for a sexually-related mental health condition in your health board area, broken down in the following way with regards to their age and gender, men: 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus, women: 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus, gender not specified or specified other than male and female: 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus.
2. The number of patients referred for mental health sexual therapy, psychosexual counselling or any form of talking therapy relating to sexual issues in your health board area, broken down in the following way with regards to their age and gender, men: 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus, women: 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60, gender not specified or specified other than male and female: 16-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus.
3. The age of the youngest patient referred for mental health sexual therapy, psychosexual counselling or any form of talking therapy relating to sexual issues in each of the years above.
4. The number of patients in your health board area who have undergone [a labiaplasty \(vulva operation\)](#), broken down in the following way with regards to their age: Under 18, 18-24, 25-40, 40-60, 60 plus for each of the years above.
5. The age of the youngest patient in your health board area who has undergone a labiaplasty in each of these years.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 1, 2 and 3 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.

The UHB offers a number of various talking therapies and treatments for multiple Psychological conditions, none of which are specifically for sexual related mental health conditions. As a result, in order to identify any patients who have been referred for or receiving treatment for a sexually-related mental health condition a manual search of all referrals and patient records would need to be conducted to identify any information that fulfils your request.

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.

The UHB has provided the information requested for questions 4 and 5 within Attachment 1. Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as

there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.