

Reference:	FOI.15026.24
Subject:	Sexual assault incidents
Date of Request:	8 August 2024

Requested:

1. The number of incidents of sexual violence or sexual misconduct have been recorded by the Hywel Dda Health Board in the past five years that there is data for, with the data categorised into a) misconduct against staff: staff-on-staff, patient-on-staff, visitor-on-staff and b) misconduct against patient: staff-on-patient, patient-on-patient, visitor-on-patient.
2. The number of “sexual safety incidents” – a term which covers a spectrum of behaviour from abusive remarks to rape – recorded on NHS premises each year, for the past five years there is data for.
3. The number of these alleged sexual crimes on NHS premises that were reported to the police each year since 2018.
4. According to the BMJ, sexual safety policies are dedicated policies that set out how to safeguard staff, patients and visitors from harm and what processes to follow when cases are reported. What, if any, sexual safety policies does the Hywel Dda Health Board have in place?

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 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.

In order to provide you with the data requested for questions 1 and 2, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of each incident recorded across the UHB’s Safeguarding and Datix Incident Reporting Systems alongside those recorded by the Workforce and Organisational Development (W&OD) Department. These would then need to be scrutinised, to identify the information that would fulfil your request, as the information requested is not recorded centrally or easily identifiable from the searches that are able to be conducted.

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, 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 FoIA. The UHB’s responses to the remaining questions are therefore set out below.

3. The UHB does not hold the information requested. We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team in Dyfed Powys Police who may be able to help you with your enquiry. To make a Freedom of Information request to Dyfed Powys Police, an online form is required to be completed. For ease of reference, a link to their webpage to make a request has been provided below:

[Make an FOI request to ask for information about the police | Dyfed-Powys Polices](#)

4. The UHB confirms that it does not hold a sexual safety policy.