

Reference:	FOI.14818.24
Subject:	Sexual dysfunction and incontinence
Date of Request:	10 June 2024

Requested:

I would under FOI like you to provide me information on the number of people presenting to Hywel Dda/GP services for sexual dysfunction and/or incontinence between December 2022 to present time, and the waiting times after referral to be seen by a specialist consultant, grouped by gender.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold the information for all GP Surgeries. With the exception of the Managed Practices, which are directly managed by the UHB, they are all managed independently. These GP Practices hold their own information and consequently, the UHB does not have access to all of the details you require. Therefore, this information would need to be requested directly from the individual GP Practices. Contact details for each of them can be found via the following link:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/directory/gps/>

Additionally, the 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 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 the Managed GP Practices, the UHB would have to undertake a manual search of all referrals made to its Gynaecology and Urology services, to identify the information to fulfil this part of your request, as the reason for referral is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that during the month of June 2024, its Managed GP Practices made nine hundred (900) referrals to the UHB. Of those, one hundred and twenty-six (126) were referrals to Gynaecology and Urology services. Therefore, to provide you with the exact information being requested, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following just for June 2024:

126 @ 15 minutes per item = 31.5 hours
31.5 hours @ £25 per hour = £787.50

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.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients admitted to a UHB hospital diagnosed with sexual dysfunction and/or incontinence, by month and gender, during the period 1 December 2022 to 30 June 2024

Month	Incontinence		Sexual dysfunction	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
December 2022	30	29	0	*
January 2023	38	16	0	*
February 2023	36	19	0	*
March 2023	29	22	0	*
April 2023	44	21	0	6
May 2023	40	41	0	*
June 2023	43	30	0	*
July 2023	42	30	*	6
August 2023	50	30	0	6
September 2023	34	21	0	*
October 2023	34	34	0	*
November 2023	32	25	0	*
December 2023	28	26	0	*
January 2024	29	25	*	*
February 2024	38	16	0	0
March 2024	36	15	0	*
April 2024	35	22	0	*
May 2024	26	25	0	*
June 2024	21	9	0	0
Total	665	456	**	63

Please note:- recent figures may be subject to change because of a standard clinical coding backlog of up to three (3) months. Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide data on A&E attendances and outpatient appointments due to data quality issues and being unable to identify the reason for attendance.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the waiting time for inpatients diagnosed with sexual dysfunction and/or incontinence to be seen by a specialist consultant, grouped by weeks waiting and gender, during the period 1 December 2022 to 30 June 2024

Weeks waiting	Incontinence		Sexual dysfunction	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Up to 1 week	14	*	0	0
1 to 2 weeks	37	18	0	0
2 to 3 weeks	32	15	0	*
3 to 4 weeks	29	15	0	*
4 to 5 weeks	15	9	0	*
5 to 6 weeks	12	10	0	*
6 to 7 weeks	11	9	0	*
7 to 8 weeks	12	12	0	0
8 to 9 weeks	7	*	0	*
9 to 10 weeks	6	*	0	0
10 to 20 weeks	27	18	0	*

20 to 30 weeks	26	9	0	0
30 to 40 weeks	20	*	0	*
40 to 50 weeks	19	*	0	0
50 to 100 weeks	27	7	0	0
100 to 150 weeks	15	*	0	*
150 to 200 weeks	8	*	0	0
200 to 250 weeks	*	*	0	0
Over 250 weeks	*	0	0	0
Emergency admissions	344	311	*	41
Total	665	456	**	63

Please note:- the data provided for emergency admissions do not have a referral date and we are therefore unable to provide the waiting times from referral for these patients.

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 (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.