

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.2323.20
<b>Subject:</b>	Smoking in mental health inpatient facilities
<b>Date of Request:</b>	14 January 2020

**Requested:**

Please can you provide separate information for each of your hospitals/facilities providing mental health inpatient services.

1. Is the hospital smoke free (i.e. does not allow smoking anywhere on hospital grounds) and, if yes, what date did this happen?
2. How many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave for each separate calendar year since 2000 (or for each year you have information).
3. Of these, how many patients/service users have absconded/gone AWOL while on leave to have a cigarette or where the report mentions cigarettes for each separate calendar year since 2000 (or for each year you have information)?
4. When looking at all incident reports (not just those in which a patient absconded), how many incident reports mentioned "smoking", "smoke", "cigarette" or "lighter" a) in 2017, b) in 2018 and c) in 2019?

**Response:**

1. Generally, Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) hospital sites are non-smoking sites. However, our mental health inpatient services currently provide patients with sheltered facilities in the garden areas. Smoking rooms within the mental health inpatient wards were phased out between 2005 and 2010. Smoking is discouraged and smokers are offered smoking cessation input where appropriate, however individuals' rights are recognised, particularly those of detained patients who may spend protracted periods of time as inpatients.
2. & 3. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) was established on 1 October 2009 following the merging of Pembrokeshire Local Health Board, Ceredigion Local Health Board and Carmarthenshire Local Health Board. The UHB is therefore unable to provide any data prior to 1 January 2010.

The UHB is unable to provide the number of patients who were recorded as AWOL whilst on leave from the service or those who were recorded as AWOL to have a cigarette as this information is not recorded centrally and 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 the information requested the UHB would be required to manually scrutinise each record of a mental health patient being recorded as AWOL, and cross reference this with incidences of leave to identify those patients who absconded whilst on leave. It is estimated that conducting this exercise would cost:

651 records @ 15 minutes per record – 162.75 hours  
162.75 hours @ £25 per hour = £4,068.75

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB is required to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has therefore provided the number of recorded incidences of a mental inpatient being reported as AWOL for each calendar year between 2010 and 2019 within the table below.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Number of incidents</b>	112	88	58	41	24	65	83	58	58	64

4. During 2017, 2018 and 2019 there are 18 recorded incidents that reference “cigarettes”, however, these are relating to incidents of self-harm such as a patient burning themselves with a cigarette. All incidents of this nature are taken seriously and would result in patients having cigarettes and lighters confiscated. The confiscated items would only be returned to a patient under supervision when the assessed risk of self-harm has decreased.