

Reference:	FOI.3757.20
Subject:	Staff at Prince Phillip Hospital
Date of Request:	6 August 2020

Requested:

I would like to request the number of staff at Prince Phillip Hospital that have contracted COVID-19 since the start of the outbreak.

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 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 you with this information, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise all COVID-19 positive test results to identify where the staff member worked as this information is not recorded centrally. The number of positive tests for UHB staff was 650; therefore, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate level’, costing the UHB the following:

650 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 162.5 hours
162.5 hours @ £25 per hours = £4,062.50

Therefore, the UHB is applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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.