

Reference:	FOI.19739.26
Subject:	Substance misuse treatment
Date of Request:	25 February 2026

Requested:

1. For your area planning board area, could you please provide the figures you have for 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025 and any more recent figures if they are available which show:
 - a. the number of adults in opiate substance misuse treatment
 - b. the number of adults being prescribed long-acting buprenorphine (broken down by the various strengths and/or if it is an implant if that level of detail is available and disclosable)
 - c. if the answer to (b) is not possible, please provide the number of adults who have long-acting buprenorphine recorded on a Sub-Intervention Review

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 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” 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.

A Section 12 exemption is being applied to all of your request as the UHB cannot provide the information for the timeframe requested as we can only access the information at a fixed point in time. To provide you with the data for the timeframe requested, the UHB would need to identify and scrutinise the records of all patients currently on a substance misuse treatment in addition to those discharged; to identify the number of patients in opiate substance misuse treatment and those being prescribed long-acting Buprenorphine, as it is not recorded centrally.

Furthermore, for questions 1b and 1c, a manual trawl of patient records would also be required to identify the various strengths or implants prescribed, or those who have long-acting Buprenorphine recorded on a Sub-Intervention Review.

The UHB can confirm that one hundred and forty-four (144) patients are currently prescribed long acting Buprenorphine It is estimated that a manual search of these records would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search of digital records taking a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes per digital record, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

144 @ 15 minutes per record = 36 hours
 36 hours @ £25 per hour = £900

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

The UHB suggests that you may refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested. However, the UHB would still be required undertake a manual search of the patients' records, along with those discharged, to identify the information to fulfil your request and so the outcome would be dependent on the number of patients identified within a shorter time period.

Under the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance; it is under this duty that the UHB provides the requested information as at 26 February 2026.

1. The UHB confirms four hundred and twenty-seven (427) adults are in Opiate Substance Misuse Treatment.
2. The UHB confirms one hundred and forty-four (144) adults are prescribed long-acting Buprenorphine.
3. Please see response to question 2.