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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.18194.25      |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Supplier payments |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 25 August 2025    |

**Requested:**

Suppliers payment/spend data from 2018 to the most recent months.

Payments to suppliers over £500 or over £25,000, depending on your publication thresholds.

Ideally in Excel or CSV format, if available.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (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 information for the full time period requested, the UHB would be required to undertake a search of two (2) separate financial systems, Oracle and QlikSense, to identify the information that would fulfil your request.

Following interrogation of the two (2) systems, it was identified that QlikSense holds information for a limited period of time, 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2025. Further historical data for the 2018/19 to 2021/22 financial years is held on Oracle, however, due to a system error the information is not exportable into an accessible format, despite several attempts to export various timeframes of the data.

Due to the information not being easily accessible, it would require a manual trawl of all individual invoices recorded on the system to summarise the total supplier spend for the remainder of the requested time period.

The UHB can confirm that one hundred and one thousand, one hundred and eighty-two (101,182) lines of data were exported from QlikSense, covering the period 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2025. It is therefore estimated by comparison, that a manual search of records for the 2018/19 to 2021/22 financial years would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

In order to conduct a manual trawl, the UHB would be required to transcribe each line of data into a spreadsheet, before filtering the records by supplier to collate the required information. At an estimated thirty (30) seconds per line to transcribe, validate and filter the records, the UHB calculates the following costs, exceeding the ‘appropriate limit’:

120 records per hour @ 30 seconds per record  
101,182 records / 120 records per hours = 843 hours  
843 hours @ £25 per hour = £21,079.58

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, this can include assisting a requester to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request further. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of records to be undertaken to identify the information requested for the 2018/19 to 2021/22 financial years as the data is not easily accessible.

However, the UHB provides the accessible information held for the period 1 April 2023 and 31 August 2025, at Attachment 1.

Additionally, the UHB has applied a Section 21 exemption of the FoIA, as the information requested for the 2022/23 financial year is already within the public domain and is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered a similar Freedom of Information request, FOI.13010.23 – Goods and services supplier costs, which is available on our disclosure log.

A link has been provided below, which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

[Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/disclosure-log/hywel-dda-university-health-board)