

Reference:	FOI.1601.19
Subject:	Talking therapies for deaf patients
Date of Request:	23 September 2019

Requested

Please could you provide the following information for the four tax years between 2015/16 and 2018/19 in an Excel spreadsheet (no PDFs):

1. Do you fund talking therapies for deaf patients? Please answer, yes or no.
2. How many individual funding requests (IFR) have you received regarding:
 - a) Mental health treatment for British Sign Language users and separately, patients who are registered deaf and/or has hearing loss?
 - b) For each of those groups, how many of the IFR requests were accepted and denied?
 - c) For each request that was denied, what were the reason(s) why given at the independent panel?
3. Which clinical provision(s) were requested on each IFR application form in connection to Q.2?
4. For each IFR application in connection to Q2, please list the patients' ages at the time of submission; gender; and ethnicity.
5. Please could you list the name(s) of any organisation(s) patients were referred to for treatment?
6. How many IFR applications, for all patients, were accepted and denied each year by your Local Health Board?
7. Which mental health services commissioned by your Local Health Board are fully accessible to BSL users? Please give details.
8. Which service providers are all patients generally referred to under your Local Health Board for psychological therapies/ mental health treatment?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has provided the information requested within an Excel Spreadsheet, Attachment 1.

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 (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.