

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.9536.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Translation services
<b>Date of Request:</b>	2 August 2022

**Requested:**

I am writing to obtain information about your Trust's funding on interpreters and the translation services they provide under the Freedom of Information Act.

To outline my query as clearly as possible, I am requesting:

1. How much the trust spent on foreign interpreters in each of the following financial years: 2019-20; 2020-21 and 2021-22.
2. A breakdown of the languages that an interpreter was needed to translate.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 2, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (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.

In order to provide you with the information requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of financial invoices, to identify the languages an interpreter was used for, as this information is not identifiable using the Finance ledger.

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 FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for question 1 below.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the total spend on foreign language interpreters, during the 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

Financial year	Total spend
2019/20	£186,581.00
2020/21	£141,533.00
2021/22	£186,746.00

Please note:- the figures provided exclude Welsh translation and deaf/hearing interpretation costs.