

Reference:	FOI.120.19
Subject:	Treatment for depression and anxiety in patients aged under 18
Date of Request:	12 February 2019

Requested

1. The number of drugs prescribed by GPs in your area for depression to patients under 18 for the last five financial/clinical years.
2. The number of drugs prescribed by GPs in your area for anxiety to patients under 18 for the last five years
3. The number of referrals for the above disorders for "talking" treatment over the same period
4. What is the youngest patient treated for depression over this period - and in what year?
5. What is the youngest patient treated for anxiety over this period - and in what year?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has previously answered a similar request, FOI/167/18, which has been published on our disclosure log. The Freedom of Act 2000 allows information which is readily accessible within the public domain to be exempted under Section 21.

The UHB's disclosure log can be accessible via the following link:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/FOI16718.pdf>

2. Please see response to question 1.
3. In November 2016 the UHB combined its Psychotherapy and Therapeutic Day Service Teams to form one Integrated Psychological Therapy Service (IPTS).

Prior to the introduction of the IPTS in November 2016, referrals to mental health therapies were not received in one central location. Therefore the UHB does not hold a centralised record of this information including referral, reason for referral and waiting times. The new therapies services (IPTS and Psychology), are currently developing their data collection processes with the aim of information, such as requested here, being readily available.

The UHB is therefore unable to provide complete information to answer this request as it is estimated that the cost of providing this information 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 the information requested for one year alone, a manual interrogation of approximately 500 patient records would be necessary at a cost of:

500 patient records @ 15 minutes per patient record = 125 hours

125 hours @ £25 per hours = £3,125

The UHB is therefore 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*.

Under the UHB's Section 16 obligation to advise and assist, the UHB has therefore provided the number of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) referrals for patients aged under 18 from 1 January 2016 onwards.

Calendar Year	No of Referrals
As at 12 February 2019	22
2018	47
2017	25
2016	27

4. The youngest patient treated by the UHB for depression during the requested timeframe was a 10 year old child in 2017.
5. The youngest patients treated by the UHB for anxiety during the requested timeframe were 10 years old, they were treated in 2017 and 2019.