Reference:	FOI.20709.26
Subject:	Type 1 Diabetes Testing
Date of Request:	12 June 2026

Requested and response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 6 and 7, 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 on the number of unique patients who tested positive for autoantibodies and those submitted for onward referral, the UHB would need to undertake a review against all patients who were tested by the department for diabetes related conditions, to identify any information that may fulfil these parts of your request, as the information is not recorded in an easily accessible manner.

The UHB can confirm that approximately two hundred and fifty (250) patients were tested during the time periods provided. 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 taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following:

250 @ 5 minutes per record = 20 hours and 50 minutes
20 hours and 50 minutes @ £25 per hour = £512.50

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 requestor to further refine their request.

You may further refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested e.g. a three (3) month period. However, the UHB would still be required to review each record of those that have been tested, to identify any information that may fulfil your request.

1. Do you provide autoantibody testing for diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes?

Answer: The UHB confirms it does provide autoantibody testing for the diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes.

2. If yes, please indicate which assays are available either onsite or via referral to another laboratory:
   a. GAD
   b. IA-2
   c. ZnT8
   d. IAA

Answer: The UHB confirms all assays listed are available either onsite or via referral to another laboratory.

3. Does your organisation receive requests for Type 1 diabetes autoantibody testing in individuals without clinically diagnosed diabetes (e.g. screening of at-risk relatives or other asymptomatic individuals)?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unknown

The UHB does not receive requests for Type 1 diabetes autoantibody testing in individuals without clinically diagnosed diabetes.

4. Please provide the number of unique patients tested clinically for the following autoantibodies during:
   - Calendar year 2025
   - January–March 2026

Please exclude research-only testing where identifiable.

Please provide separate figures for:
- onsite testing
- outsourced/referred testing

If exact patient numbers are not available, please provide the closest available measure (e.g. request numbers or assay volumes) and specify the metric used.

Answer table: The UHB provides the information requested within the table below.

		Patients Tested Onsite	Outside Lab
2025 (Calendar Year)	GAD only	0	0
	Combination of any of GAD, IA-2 and/or ZnT8	0	Approximately 200
	IAA only (if available)	0	0
1st quarter 2026 (January – March)	GAD only	0	0
	Combination of any of GAD, IA-2 and/or ZnT8	0	Approximately 50
	IAA only (if available)	0	0

Please note: the pathology department submit samples for GAD and IAA testing only to the external lab for analysis. However, these tests would only be run other clinical conditions, not relating to diabetes aetiology or screening, therefore, the above has been answered in relation to diabetes only.

5. If an external laboratory is used, please provide:
    a. laboratory/provider name
    b. location

Answer: The name and location of the external laboratory the UHB uses is: Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Exeter for GAD, IA-2 and ZnT8. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cardiff for IAA

6. If readily available, please provide the number of unique patients in 2025 and Jan–Mar 2026 who tested positive for:
    a. one autoantibody
    b. two or more autoantibodies

Please exclude research-only testing where possible.

Answer: Section 12 exemption applied.

7. Of the unique patients who tested positive, how many were referred through an early stage/asymptomatic screening programme?

Answer: Section 12 exemption applied.

8. Please provide the average turnaround time over the last 12 months for Type 1 diabetes autoantibody testing:
    a. onsite testing
    b. referred testing (if applicable)

Answer: The UHB confirms it does not conduct any testing onsite. Additionally, the average turnaround time for referral testing is quoted as two (2) weeks by the laboratory.