

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.3115.20
<b>Subject:</b>	Urgent referrals
<b>Date of Request:</b>	5 May 2020

**Requested:**

1. How many patients were seen by a doctor/specialist after an urgent referral by a GP and then diagnosed with cancer between February 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016
2. How many patients were seen by a doctor/specialist after an urgent referral by a GP and then diagnosed with cancer between February 1<sup>st</sup> 2017– April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017
3. How many patients were seen by a doctor/specialist after an urgent referral by a GP and then diagnosed with cancer between February 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2018
4. How many patients were seen by a doctor/specialist after an urgent referral by a GP and then diagnosed with cancer between February 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2019
5. How many patients were seen by a doctor/specialist after an urgent referral by a GP and then diagnosed with cancer between February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 – April 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 1, 2 and 3, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request 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 you with all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all patient records to identify any information that fulfils your request for the periods requested as this information was not recorded centrally until January 2019 when a tracking system was implemented.

Therefore, for questions 1, 2 and 3, the UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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 section 16 of the FOI, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has therefore provided responses to questions 4 and 5 of your request.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients referred and the number of patients that were diagnosed with cancer, as recorded on the UHB’s tracking system, for the periods 1 February to 30 April 2019 and 1 February to 30 April 2020.

<b>Period</b>	<b>Referrals</b>	<b>Malignant</b>
1/2/19 to 30/4/19	3594	412
1/2/20 to 30/4/20	2484	190