

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.16315.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Vaping incidents
<b>Date of Request:</b>	8 January 2025

**Requested:**

1. How many secondary school aged pupils have arrived at A&E by ambulance as a result of vaping recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?
2. How many secondary school aged pupils have needed to be admitted to hospital as a result of vaping recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?
3. Of those admitted to hospital, please list the number of admissions according to age during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024?:
  - \*11 to 12 years old
  - \*13 to 15 years old
  - \*16 years old
  - \*17 to 18 years old
4. How many of those vaping incidents with secondary school pupils recorded during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024, contained the following substances:
  - THC;
  - Spice;
  - THC & Spice

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all of the information requested. The UHB does not record the primary diagnosis as 'vaping' on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS). However, on occasion, staff record additional information in the free text field on WPAS; upon reviewing this information, the UHB has identified some information that fulfils your request.

However, UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), 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 (FoIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.