

Reference:	FOI.16300.25
Subject:	Waiting list deaths
Date of Request:	7 January 2025

Requested:

1. The number of patients who died while on your NHS waiting list and have therefore been removed from the list due to their death or status as being deceased in 2025 to date.
2. The number of patients who died while on your NHS waiting list and have therefore been removed from the list due to their death or status as being deceased, broken down into the years 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020.
3. If possible, I would also like a breakdown of ethnicity, religion, age and gender for every patient who died while on your NHS waiting list for each of these years, please.
4. Please also tell me the total number of people who are currently on your waiting list.
 - If possible, please provide a breakdown of ethnicity and religion for these patients.

I'd like this information in a table in an Excel format, please.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, 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 all of the information broken down by religion and ethnicity for questions 3 and 4 as requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all deceased patient records to identify any data that may fulfil these parts of your request, as not all of this information is routinely recorded and centrally held.

The UHB can confirm that for question 4, eighty-two thousand, five hundred and sixty-three (82,563) patients are currently on its Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting lists. Therefore, to provide you with the exact information being requested, conducting the search would far exceed the 'appropriate limit', costing the UHB the following just for the 2024 financial year:

82,563 @ 15 minutes per item = 20,640.75 hours
 20,640.75 hours @ £25 per hour = £516,018.75

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds within the attached Excel spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.