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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.269.19               |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Waiting list initiatives |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 7 March 2019             |

**Requested**

2017/18

1. In 2017/18 how many times did the health board undertake a Waiting List Initiative\*?
2. What type of procedure / diagnosis did each initiative cover?
3. How much did each initiative cost?
4. How many of the initiatives involved commissioning a private provider?

2016/17

1. In 2016/17 how many times did the health board undertake a Waiting List Initiative\*?
2. What type of procedure / diagnosis did each initiative cover?
3. How much did each initiative cost?
4. How many of the initiatives involved commissioning a private provider?

\*Waiting List Initiative, as defined by the Wales Audit Office in 2015:

“Waiting list initiatives involve paying NHS staff to work outside their core hours – generally at weekends – to carry out elective activity. They can also involve commissioning elective activity from other private or NHS health providers. This activity has traditionally been classed as ‘additional’ rather than part of ‘core’ NHS elective activity.

**Response**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of waiting list initiatives undertaken during the 2017/18 and 2016/17 financial years, 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.

Waiting list initiatives are arranged departmentally, in order to provide the information requested the UHB would be required to conduct a manual trawl of records to identify each waiting list initiative and subsequently identify the costs incurred by the activity.

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*.