

Reference:	FOI.5442.21
Subject:	Welsh Language and Mental Health services
Date of Request:	25 February 2021

Requested:

Would it be possible to get a response detailing what provision there is for Welsh language mental health services, which includes the following:

1. What percentage of mental health care services are provided in Welsh?
2. What's the percentage of Welsh speaking mental health care staff employed by the Health Board?
3. How long are the waiting times for Welsh and English counselling services? Is there a difference in wait times?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for questions 1 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.

The UHB does not currently provide any dedicated Mental Health (MH) services in Welsh. However, all patients are asked on first contact, to confirm their language preference which is recorded in the patients' medical record where assigned to a Welsh speaking member of staff is assigned if available.

Therefore, in order to provide you with the requested information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all MH patient records, to identify any information that fulfils your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

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.

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 FoIA.

Some of the information in response to questions 2 and 3 is already within the public domain; therefore, the UHB has applied an Exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA, as the information is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered similar Freedom of Information requests relating to questions 2 and 3, FOI/3763/20 and FOI/4949/20, which are available on our disclosure log.

For ease of reference please click on the attached link which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

Additionally, further information on the UHB's Welsh Language Services is available on the UHB's webpages and can be accessed via the attached link:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/healthcare/services-and-teams/welsh-language-services/>