

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/400

CAM Services

Information Requested:

I am writing to obtain information, under the Freedom of Information Act, about your Trust's funding of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) services they provided.

1. How much the Trust has spent on CAM services for the following financial years: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22. This includes salaries for those employed to carry out these services, costs of medicine, equipment and any additional costs involved.
2. A list of all services provided under CAM

Response details:

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees' regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that there is no separate CAM department set up within the UHB. CAM services are integrated and provided at a low level within Palliative Care and Chronic Pain services (mostly acupuncture). As such is it not possible to split out and identify salary costs. No medicine costs are incurred.