

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/434

Lip Biopsies and Neuro-Ophthalmology

Information Requested:

Lip biopsies

1. In which unit(s) in which hospital(s) or other establishment(s) in your healthboard area are lip biopsies conducted on the NHS?
2. How many lip biopsies have been conducted on the NHS within your healthboard area within the last 12 month or other period for which you have data? Please indicate the period for which you are providing data.
3. How many out of area lip biopsy referrals has the NHS within your area made within the last 12 month or other period for which you have data? Please indicate the period for which you are providing data.

Neuro-ophthalmology

4. Which unit(s) in which hospital(s) or other establishment(s) within your Healthboard area have a NHS neuro-ophthalmologist consultant providing neuro-ophthalmology services on the NHS.
5. Please provide the name(s) of the consultant(s) in each case. I assume that this is publicly available data and so is not exempted under the Freedom of Information Act.

Out of area referral policies

6. I'm also requesting copies of Health Board out of area referral policies, guidance, strategies/plans.

Response Details:

In response to questions 1 and 2:

Lip Biopsies (OPCS-4 : F062) coded in any position in FCEs between 01/11/2022 and 31/10/2023:

Count		2022/2023			2023/2024				Summary
		NOV	DEC	MAR	APR	AUG	SEP	OCT	
NHS Patient	University Hospital of Wales	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	10
Summary		2	2	1	1	1	1	2	10

In response to question 3:

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 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') 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.

In response to question 4:

Consultants work from Clinic 8 and the Children's Hospital for Wales Outpatients Department.

In response to question 5:

After considering your request, the UHB believes that section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies in this instance and is refusing your request.

Under section 21 of the Act, an organisation does not have to respond to a request if the information being sought is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The UHB has applied this exemption to your request as the information you are seeking is available in the public domain. Under our section 16 obligation to advise and assist, I can confirm that the relevant data can be found via the following link: [Ophthalmology Consultants](#).

In response to question 6:

The UHB does not hold this information for lip biopsies or neuro-ophthalmology.