

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/600**  
**External Management Consultants**

**1. Information on the total spend on external management consultants by health board for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23, broken down per year.**

After considering your request for information on consultancy services spend, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (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, a public authority 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 information can be found at the below weblinks:

[Annual Report 2022/2023](#)

[Annual Report 2021/2022](#)

[Annual Report 2020/2021](#)

[Annual Report 2019/2020](#)

[Annual Report 2018/2019](#)

**2. A list of projects/initiatives which external management consultants had been contracted to work on during the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23, broken down per year.**

In completing a search for the information requested, 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.