

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/074

Waiting Times

Information Requested:

- the number of patients (adults) waiting for a mental health assessment
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support for depression
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for anxiety
- the number of patients (adults) waiting of psychological support / intervention for ocd
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for personality disorders
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for bipolar disorder
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for eating disorder
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for sleep disorders
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for schizophrenia
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention regarding bereavement
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for addiction issues (drugs and alcohol)
- the number of patients (adults) waiting for psychological support / intervention for self-harm

For each of the above please can you supply also supply the longest and average wait.

Please can you also supply:

- The number of children and young people waiting longer than 4 weeks to access mental health treatment
- The number of people waiting longer six months to access specialist psychological therapies following a referral
- The number of people waiting to be seen by community mental health teams in your health board
- The number of people under the care of community mental health teams in your health
- the number of adult inpatient mental health beds in your health board
- the average occupancy rate of adult inpatient mental health beds in your health board for each of the last 12 months
- the number of children's inpatient mental health beds in your health board
- the average occupancy rate of children's inpatient mental health beds in your health board for each of the last 12 months

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 the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004. The UHB has therefore relied upon the section 12 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) ('Exemption

where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request for the following reasons.

It should first be noted that multiple requests within a single item of correspondence are considered separate requests for the purposes of section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000, as confirmed in *Fitzsimmons v Information Commissioner* [2008] UKIT EA/2007/0124.

When a public authority is estimating whether the appropriate limit is likely to be exceeded for the purposes of regulation 5 of the Fees Regulations as prescribed by section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000, it can include the costs of complying with two or more requests if these are:

- made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign; and
- received by the public authority within any period of 60 working days.

Since all of these requests were sent by the same individual and received after 18 January 2024, the UHB believes these conditions to be satisfied.

Regulation 5(2) of the Fees Regulations equally requires that aggregated requests relate 'to any extent' to the same or similar information. This test is likely to be met where requests possess an overarching theme or have a common thread running between them with respect to the nature of the information sought. And since each of the requests relate to capacity and temporal data, the UHB considers the requirement of similar information sought to be met due to the common themes present.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to the aggregated requests would exceed the time limit as set within the Fees Regulations to respond to a request made under the FOIA 2000. 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 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 light of the above considerations, the UHB is refusing your requests for information in accordance with section 12(4) of the FOIA 2000.