

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/170
Catering Services

Information Requested:

Please provide me:

- 1) The total £ amount spent on patient meals. I would like a figure for just the food / ingredients, without including staff costs or equipment.
- 2) The total number of meals served to patients (including breakfast if possible)
- 3) The average daily cost of meals per patient in £. I.e how much does it cost to feed one patient for a day, taking just the food / ingredients costs into account, so again not including staff costs or equipment. Provide this as an average over the year, along with a note on the method used to work this out if possible.
- 4) The average number of patients you fed per day over the year (i.e on any given day we fed an average of 100 patients)

For each question, please provide figures

For the trust as a whole, and then for each individual hospital under your trust For the last 5 financial years, NOT calendar years as I first requested. Please include this financial year too:

2019/2020

2020/2021

2021/2022

2022/2023

2023/2024 (for this year, please provide the figures from the start of the year to 29/02/2024)

I am expecting the data in table format, with years in the rows, and then a column for the trust as a whole, as well as a column for each hospital you serve.

Please also provide any necessary notes on the information you provide to make sure I have a full understanding of the figures and what they denote.

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 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 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 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 (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The Regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.

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, it can include the costs of complying with two or more requests if these are: made by one person; made for the same or similar information; and received by the public authority within any period of 60 working days. The UHB believes these three criteria to be satisfied.

Please also be aware that a public authority can aggregate two or more separate requests and that multiple requests within a single item of correspondence are considered separate requests for the purposes of section 12 of the FOIA 2000, as confirmed in *Fitzsimmons v Information Commissioner* [2008] UKIT EA/2007/0124.

Regulation 5(2) of the Fees Regulations requires that the 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 relates to catering services, the UHB considers the requirement of similar information sought to be satisfied due to the common themes present.