

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/046**

**Audiology Assessments**

**Request Details**

- 1. Please can you confirm the number of adult patients with presbycusis (age related hearing loss) currently waiting for audiometry and Audiology assessment and hearing aid fitting.**

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.

To comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance, the UHB can advise that if question 1 is referring to people with a diagnosis of presbycusis already this would relate to our reassessment patients (those who already have hearing aids). The UHB does not routinely record an aetiology for adult patients on the audiology database. Therefore, an audit of each person's records would be necessary. Presbycusis is age-related hearing loss, but there is no agreed age in published peer-reviewed literature which can be used as a reference point for onset and hearing loss can also be multi-factorial making it difficult to assign an aetiology.

- 2. What is the current waiting time for an audiology assessment for patients with suspected presbycusis (age related hearing loss)? Please provide the median waiting time and longest waiting time in weeks.**

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.

To comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance, the UHB can advise that if question 2 relates to new patients referred for an audiology assessment, Presbycusis is age-related hearing loss but there is no agreed age in published peer-reviewed literature which can be used as a reference point for onset and hearing loss can also be multi-factorial making it difficult to assign an aetiology. Therefore, it would be presumptuous to look at an adult hearing loss waiting list and calculate how many people have suspected presbycusis by age alone.