

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_261_17

You asked:

For the financial year 2015/16, please list methods for assessing the efficacy of the following public health functions of the Director of Public Health, including cost-effectiveness, for each of:

- Smoking and tobacco – Stop smoking services and interventions
- Physical activity – adults
- Obesity – adults
- Substance misuse - Alcohol misuse

Each of these should specify:

- Smoking and tobacco – Stop smoking services and interventions – net current expenditure by Health Board on public health interventions whose intention is to reduce or stop smoking. As part of this, please list:
 - a) Net current expenditure on the intervention
 - b) Number of people who accessed the services
 - c) Number of people who reduced their smoking or stopped smoking as a result of the intervention
- Physical activity – adults – net current expenditure by the Health Board on public health interventions whose intention is to lead to the taking up of sport on a regular basis. As part of this, please list:
 - a) Net current expenditure on the intervention
 - b) Number of people who accessed the services
 - c) Number of people who took up sport on a regular basis as a result of the intervention
- Obesity – adults – net current expenditure by the Health Board on public health interventions whose intention is to lead to weight loss. As part of this, please list:

- a) Net current expenditure on the intervention
- b) Number of people who accessed the services
- c) Number of people who have lost weight as a result of the intervention

• Substance misuse - Alcohol misuse – adults – net current expenditure by the Health Board on public health interventions whose intention is to diminish alcohol consumption. As part of this, please list:

- a) Net current expenditure on the intervention
- b) Number of people who accessed the services
- c) Number of people who have reduced their alcohol intake as a result of the intervention

Please then provide the above information for each local authority area that sits within the Health Board area (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf) if this information is available.

Please also list the metric used to determine cost-effectiveness for each of the above four interventions. If a cost-effectiveness metric is not used, please list any alternative methods for each of the above four interventions.

Our response:

I can confirm that the information required to answer these specific questions is not centrally recorded nor is it held within a structured file or format. It has been estimated that to provide the level of information being sought would significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. This information would require significant post-processing and additional research to present it in this format due to the complex nature of the issues underlying behaviour change and delivering support services. It should also be noted that services are often provided in partnership with other organisations including local authorities, Public Health Wales and Sport Wales. Effectiveness and cost effectiveness are considered, usually at a national level having regard to the strength of evidence of particular programmes.

This being the case, the Health Board is relying upon section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 12 provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 represents the estimated costs of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the Health Board holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, please see link provided below to the latest Public Health Annual Report for 2015:

<http://cwmtaf.wales/how-we-work/our-organisation-2/annual-reports/>

Also, additional historical information is available within the Welsh Health Survey available here: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-health-survey/?lang=en>, although the National Survey for Wales has now replaced it available here:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/summary/?lang=en>