

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_97_19

You asked:

- 1.) The number of children – under the age of 18 – being treated for addiction to tranquilisers for the financial years 2015-16, 2016-2017, 2017-18 and 2018-19.**

Please note: the data for questions 1 – 3 is from the Young People Drug and Alcohol Service which covers the Cwm Taf, Cardiff & Vale and Bridgend areas.

Please see provided in the table below the number of children, under the age of 18 being treated for addiction to tranquilisers. This information is recorded by calendar year.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan – April)
12	10	9	17	**

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by **. The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

- 2.) Please breakdown and detail which drug they were having treatment Such as Xanax – the brand name for the drug alprazolam.**

Please see provided in the table below the drug they were having treatment for:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan – April)
Valium	Valium	Valium	Valium	Valium
Benzodiazepine (unknown)		Benzodiazepine (unknown)	Benzodiazepine (unknown)	Benzodiazepine (unknown)
MSJ		MSJ	MSJ	MSJ
			Xanax	
			Zopiclone	

- 3.) Please break down (for each year) and each drug how many of these children were under the age of 10 – under the age of five, under the age of 10, under the age of 15 and under the age of 18?**

I can confirm that the Health Board does hold this information. However, to release the specific information in the way that you have requested would mean disclosure of low numbers.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing **in regard to** Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, we can confirm that there were no children under the age of 10 being treated for addiction to tranquilisers during this time period.

Provided in the table below is a breakdown by drug. Please note that there are instances where by an individual may be addicted to more than one drug listed

2015 – April 2019	Age 17 - 10
Valium	37
Xanax	5
MSJ	4
Zopiclone	1
Benzodiazepine (unknown)	7

4.) For the same years please can you detail how many people – under the age of 25 – have been treated for addiction to tranquilisers broken down via drug?

The Health Board does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required. The only way we could identify information relating to this request would be to review the case notes of every patient under the age of 18 - 25 who has been referred and assessed by our Community Drug and Alcohol Team. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.