# Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date request received</th>
<th>21st October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date information is due to be sent</td>
<td>18th November</td>
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## Information requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, could you please provide the following information?

1. Could you please supply a list of the five highest amounts of annual payment made to a single locum doctor by your health board in each of the last three financial years.
2. Could you also provide a breakdown the proportion of the health board’s staff spends on locums/agency staff in each of these years and the total amount for each year.

If there is a possibility the request exceeds the Section 12 limits of the act, can you provide assistance in narrowing my request to within practical limits.

## Information provided for the answer

The Freedom of Information Act allows the right to request any recorded information held by a public authority, such as Public Health Wales. A request can be made for any information it is thought a public authority may hold. The right only covers recorded information which includes information held on computers, in emails and in printed or handwritten documents as well as images, video and audio recordings.

A request can take the form of a question, rather than a request for specific documents, but an authority does not have to answer your question if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgment that is not already recorded. Our statutory duty under section 1 only applies to recorded information that is held by us therefore any requests asking questions or for opinions, save where the answers to these are held within recorded information do not come under the scope of a valid request. The information you are requesting is not held in a structured format and comprises a series of questions asking for comments on service provision which as explained above is not a valid
request under the Act.