



GIG  
NHS

Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

## Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

Date request received

9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Date information is due to be sent

7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Information requested:

I am writing a column about the Dr Andrew Wakefield and the effect his paper had upon the uptake of the MMR jab. Under the freedom of information act please could I request the following

- 1) How many people took the MMR jab in 1993, that where in your authority.
- 2) How many took the MMR jab in 1998, that where in your authority.
- 3) How many took the MMR jab in 2008, that where in your authority.
- 4) How much money was spent from 1998 until 2008 in promoting the use of the MMR jab

If you have a year by year breakdown of the MMR uptake then I would be grateful but the years stated above are the main ones please.

## Information provided for the answer

I have attached routine COVER reports for the periods in question. These reports provide an indication of how many two year olds and five year olds received their routine first or second doses of MMR vaccine during the financial years relating to 1993/94, 1998/99 and 2008/9. Other children, teenagers and adults will have been immunised with MMR opportunistically or as part of catch-up efforts, but unfortunately we have no way of easily quantifying this.

It is important to consider MMR uptake data for the above years in the context of trends between 1997 and the present day. From 1996/97 there was a marked decline in routine uptake of MMR, which reached a low point during 2002/03. The likely prompt for this decline in uptake was flawed (and now retracted) research and subsequent negative media attention on unproven vaccine side-effects. Since 2003 there has been a sustained increase in uptake of MMR vaccination and for the past three years routine uptake of one dose of MMR in two year olds has exceeded 95%. National level MMR uptake trends for the period in question are summarised in Figure 1 of the latest Public Health Wales Quarterly COVER report:

[http://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk:8080/VaccinationsImmunisationProgsDocs.nsf/5633c1d141208e8880256f2a004937d1/40313bdffe1c227b80257f6300329071/\\$FILE/Cov15q4%20\(Report%20117\)%20v1.pdf](http://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk:8080/VaccinationsImmunisationProgsDocs.nsf/5633c1d141208e8880256f2a004937d1/40313bdffe1c227b80257f6300329071/$FILE/Cov15q4%20(Report%20117)%20v1.pdf)

Here are the details relating to the attached files:

### **COVER MMR 93-94 (word document)**

This file contains scans of tables from the four quarterly COVER reports spanning April 1993 to March 1994. We were unable to source annual health authority level statistics for this period, but totals from the four quarters can be added together to provide an estimate for the annual total. In each of the tables in this file, it is the two columns on the right hand side which relate to MMR uptake. The columns headed 'number in cohort (3)', 'number in cohort B' and 'cohort B' contain the numbers of children reaching two years of age in the appropriate quarters, the number who have been vaccinated are listed alongside. Only information for uptake of MMR dose 1 in 2 year olds is available for this time period (the second routine dose was introduced in 1996).

Health organisation boundaries were different when this report was published, we have attached a lookup table which gives approximations of how they relate to today's structures, it is important to note that in some areas data aren't directly comparable as the boundaries do not map neatly across.

**COV report 99Q2 and 98-99 annual data (pdf file)**

This report summarises uptake of vaccinations in children reaching birthdays during the quarter ending 31/03/1999 and separately for the year ending 31/03/1999. Table 2 (*Total number of children resident in the health authority area on 5/5/98 reaching either their 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 13th(girls only) or 14th(girls only) birthday in the year ending 31/03/99 and proportion of those having been immunised by their birthday*) contains uptake data for MMR dose 1 in two year olds and MMR dose 2 in five year olds.

**Annual COVER report 2008-9 (Cov20082009) (pdf file)**

This report summarises uptake of vaccinations in children reaching birthdays during the year ending 31/03/2009. Table 3 (*Vaccine uptake in children reaching their 2nd birthday between 01/04/08 and 31/03/09 and resident on 14/05/2009*) contains uptake data for the first dose of MMR in two year olds. Table 4 (*Vaccine uptake in children reaching their 5th birthday between 01/04/08 and 31/03/09 and resident on 14/05/2009*) contains uptake data for the second dose of MMR in five year olds.

To the best of my knowledge, we don't hold information which would enable you to answer the 4<sup>th</sup> question, relating to costs of promotional activities during the above years.

