

Reference:	FOI.10874.23
Subject:	S2 Funding Agreements
Date of Request:	3 February 2023

Requested:

1. How many applications from UK patients for pre-planned treatment abroad have you approved in the following years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.
2. For patients requesting approval through the scheme, please provide the most frequently requested treatment type for each year: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.
3. How many EU/EEA/Swiss patients have you approved for pre-planned treatment at your health board under the S2 scheme in the following years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.
4. For EU/EEA/Swiss patients requesting treatment at your board under the scheme, please provide the most frequently requested treatment type for each year: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) can confirm that the Funding for Planned Treatment in Europe – UK S2 Planned Treatment (Wales), known as the S2 Funding Route came into effect on 1 January 2021; the UHB can therefore only provide information from this date onwards.

1. & 2. The UHB can confirm that two (2) applications under the S2 scheme were approved for Orthopaedic treatment between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022.

The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients for each individual calendar year, due to the low numbers (less than 5) as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.

3. & 4. As the S2 funding route is only applicable to patients in Wales who are seeking planned treatment in an EU country, the UHB does not hold the information being requested.