

Reference:	FOI.6029.21
Subject:	Amputations
Date of Request:	18 May 2021

Requested:

Please can you provide the information requested below:

The number of urgent minor amputations and the number of urgent major amputations carried out each month, as a result of diabetic foot disease i.e. the amputation was performed because of or as a consequence of the patient's diabetic condition, for the following years:

2018

2019

2020

and as many months of 2021 as you can provide, up to and including the latest information you have.

I was working on the below definitions of the 'major' and 'minor' amputation:

Minor amputation regards removal of toes or feet

Major amputation refers to the above or below the knee amputation

Does this match the definition of your records? If not, please can you inform me of your definition if major and minor is different, or specify the criteria you work to, e.g. above or below the knee amputations.

Please can I also request that the response information be provided in Excel format.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate level" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to identify amputee patients who are also diabetic, then undertake a manual search of the patient records to identify if the amputation was major or minor and if diabetes was a causal factor, as this information is not held centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which 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.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, we are required, as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the number of patients that had an amputation, with diabetes as a

clinical condition, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System, for the requested periods, within the spreadsheet, at Attachment 1.

Where the figure in the table has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), 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 FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), 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 defines 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.