

Reference:	FOI.17339.25
Subject:	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital systems
Date of Request:	14 May 2025

Requested:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital systems within radiology and emergency services at your Health Board:

1. Who provides your Radiology PACS system, and when is this due for replacement?
2. Who provides your Radiology Information System (RIS), and when is this due for replacement?
3. What was the total number of emergency admissions to your Health Board in the previous full year?
4. Does your Health Board currently use any AI-based software in radiology (e.g. for image analysis, triage, diagnosis, or workflow support)?
5. If yes, please specify:
 - the name(s) of the AI system(s),
 - the clinical area(s) they are used in (e.g. fracture detection, chest X-ray, mammography),
 - the supplier(s),
 - whether they are integrated into PACS or RIS, and
 - the procurement route (e.g. direct award, framework, third party).
6. Are any AI systems currently being piloted or under evaluation in radiology? If so, when are these pilots expected to conclude?
7. Does your Health Board use any enterprise AI platform or orchestration layer (e.g. Blackford, Aidoc, Sectra Amplifier, Philips AI Manager)?
8. Are any AI solutions in use within Emergency Departments? If so, please specify:
 - the name, supplier, and clinical use case,
 - whether they are in active use, under trial, or part of a research project.
9. Have these AI systems been procured or are they being used under a trial, pilot or research agreement?
10. Do you currently use outsourced reporting services for radiology? If yes, who is the provider, and what was the annual cost of this service in the last financial year?
11. Does your Health Board have a dedicated AI Working Group? If so, please provide a contact name and details.
12. Please provide the name and contact details (email and title) for the Clinical Lead for Radiology and the Clinical Lead for Emergency Medicine.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to the contract costs requested for question 10, as they relate to a third party and would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company.

Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services. Private sector bodies engaging in commercial activities with the public sector must expect some information about those activities to be disclosed.

Against Disclosure: Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and cause substantial harm to the supplier, as it would disclose their pricing and products/services provided to the UHB, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

Decision: - The UHB has considered that releasing the information under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the suppliers' competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body, and that there is a public interest in ensuring that there is competition for public sector contracts.

Therefore, the public interest in withholding the costs for the service is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the company to which this information concerns.

1. The UHB confirms Fujifilm provides the Radiology Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). It is a national system which is currently undergoing an upgrade and is due for delivery in September 2025.
2. The UHB confirms Digital Health Care Wales (DHCW) provides the Radiology Information System (RIS). It is a national system which is currently undergoing an upgrade and is due for delivery in September 2025.

3. The UHB confirms a total of forty-eight thousand, nine hundred and seventy-eight (48,978) emergency hospital admissions were recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.
4. The UHB confirms it does use AI-based software within its Radiology services.
5. The UHB provides within the table below information about the AI-based technology used.

Name of AI system	Brainomix 360
Clinical Areas Used in	Stroke detection
Supplier	Brainomix
Is the system integrated into PACS or RIS	Not integrated but information is sent back to PACS
Procurement route	Purchased as part of a national project

6. The UHB confirms there are no AI systems currently being piloted or under evaluation within its Radiology departments.
7. The UHB does not utilise any enterprise AI platforms or orchestration layers.
8. The UHB does not have any AI solutions in use within its Emergency Departments.
9. Not applicable.
10. A Section 43 exemption has been applied to the contract costs. However, the UHB can confirm that the outsourced reporting provider is Everlight.
11. The UHB does not have a dedicated AI working group. However, the UHB does have a digital department, and a digital committee called the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee (DDIC) which reports to the Board.

The purpose of the DDIC is to provide advice and assurance to the Board on the following matters:

- The direction, development and delivery of the Digital Strategy Strategic Plan.
- That the Digital Strategy Strategic Plan continues to improve and support digitally enabled health care through a digitally enabled workforce to achieve the objectives of the Health Board's Annual Plan/Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP).
- That the organisation is discharging its responsibilities with regard to the quality and integrity; safety, security and appropriate access and use of information and data, to support health improvement and the provision of high-quality healthcare.
- That the Board's arrangements for information governance including creating, collecting, storing, safeguarding, disseminating, sharing, using and disposing of information is in accordance with its stated objectives and any relevant requirements, standards and codes of practice.
- That the organisation is discharging its functions and meeting its responsibilities with regards to research and innovation activity carried out within the organisation.

The UHB's Digital Senior Team can be contacted at the generic email address provided below:

Email: digitalseniorteam.hdd@wales.nhs.uk

12. The UHB's Clinical lead for Radiology is Dr Liaquat Khan. His email address is liaquat.a.khan@wales.nhs.uk. The UHB does not have a clinical lead for Emergency Medicine. However, Mark Henwood, Medical Director has overall responsibility; contact details for the Executive Directors are available on the UHB's website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

[Board members - Hywel Dda University Health Board](#)