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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.15807.24                |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Cancelled hernia operations |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 23 October 2024             |

**Requested:**

What are the failure rates in hernia operations for obese patient?

**Clarification**

How many operations were carried out in a set period say 3 months, 6 months or a year and how many failed, with the cause being obesity?

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Details of abandoned operations and patients refused for operations and the reasons for this are not recorded centrally on the UHB’s Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS). In order to identify the information requested, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual trawl of all patients referred into Secondary care for symptoms relating to a hernia, to identify those who were refused surgery for reason of being overweight.

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds in the form of the number of hernia operations undertaken on a monthly basis between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024.

| <b>Month</b>    | <b>Number</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Oct 2023</b> | 34            |
| <b>Nov 2023</b> | 36            |
| <b>Dec 2023</b> | 36            |
| <b>Jan 2024</b> | 45            |
| <b>Feb 2024</b> | 21            |
| <b>Mar 2024</b> | 39            |
| <b>Apr 2024</b> | 49            |
| <b>May 2024</b> | 43            |
| <b>Jun 2024</b> | 60            |
| <b>Jul 2024</b> | 55            |
| <b>Aug 2024</b> | 28            |
| <b>Sep 2024</b> | 46            |