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| Reference: | FOI.15726.24 |
| Subject: | Cancelled operations |
| Date of Request: | 16 October 2024 |

Requested:

1. How many operations were cancelled at the health board's request and through no fault of the patient in the last four years? (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24)
2. If possible, I would like this broken down by specialty/service.

Response:

1. & 2. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within the table below the number of operations cancelled by the UHB, by specialty, during the 2020/21 to 2023/24 financial years.

| Speciality | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Breast | 51 | 64 | 51 | 60 |
| Cardiology | 47 | 79 | 77 | 110 |
| Clinical Haematology | 41 | 47 | 44 | 56 |
| Colorectal | 47 | 83 | 81 | 98 |
| Dermatology | 0 | * | * | 7 |
| Endocrinology | * | * | 0 | 5 |
| ENT | 64 | 108 | 119 | 168 |
| Gastroenterology | 424 | 481 | 608 | 526 |
| General Medicine | 37 | 62 | 64 | 49 |
| General Surgery | 475 | 382 | 616 | 461 |
| Geriatric Medicine | * | 6 | * | 11 |
| Gynaecology | 127 | 132 | 269 | 250 |
| Nephrology | 0 | * | 0 | 0 |
| Neurology | 0 | * | * | 5 |
| Ophthalmology | 636 | 699 | 832 | 694 |
| Paediatrics | 8 | * | 14 | 15 |
| Pain Management | 66 | 71 | 39 | 131 |
| Palliative Medicine | 0 | * | 0 | 0 |
| Respiratory Medicine | 44 | 51 | 62 | 68 |
| Rheumatology | 50 | 50 | 74 | 58 |
| Trauma & Orthopaedics | 131 | 407 | 540 | 603 |
| Urology | 528 | 708 | 719 | 994 |
| Total | 2,781 | 3,442 | 4,215 | 4,369 |

Where the figures in the table have 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 (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 FOIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.