

Reference:	FOI.15850.24
Subject:	Cancelled surgeries
Date of Request:	29 October 2024

Requested:

How many surgeries were performed in your hospitals in 2013, 2023 and how many were performed in 2024 so far (up to September).

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.

The UHB does not hold theatre data from 2013 within its Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS); the earliest data held within WPAS is for the 2014 calendar year.

In order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patient records, to identify any information that may fulfil your request, as surgery data for the 2013 calendar year is not recorded 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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. As the earliest centrally held data within WPAS is for the 2014 calendar year, the UHB has therefore provided the accessible information it holds below.

The UHB provides the number of attended (not cancelled) theatre sessions for the 2014 and 2023 calendar years, and from 1 January to 30 September 2024, within the table below.

Hospital site	2014	2023	2024
Amman Valley Hospital	196	714	469
Bronglais General Hospital	3208	4361	3183
Glangwili General Hospital	6910	11920	9251
Prince Philip Hospital	4226	7291	6928
Withybush General Hospital	7387	7798	6144
Site not specified	0	3	1