

Reference:	FOI.16858.25
Subject:	Cataract surgery
Date of Request:	14 March 2025

Requested:

Number of procedures (April 2024 – YTD)

1. The overall / total spend on cataract surgery procedures each financial year by year across your Health Board from 2018/19 to 2023/24. Please additionally supply the total spend on cataract surgery procedures across your Health Board for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.
2. The overall / total number of cataract surgery procedures undertaken each financial year by year across your Health Board from 2018/19 to 2023/24. Please additionally supply the overall / total number of cataract surgery procedures across your Health Board for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.
3. The overall / total spend on cataract surgery procedures each financial year by year across your Health Board to each NHS Hospital and Private (Independent Sector) Provider from 2018/19 to 2023/24 broken down by individual NHS Hospital and Private Provider. Please additionally supply the total spend on cataract surgery procedures across your Health Board to each NHS Hospital and Private Provider on an individual level for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.

Please specifically specify your answer to Question 3 for the following Private Providers:

- Optical Express
- Optegra
- Spamedica
- Newmedica
- Anglia Community Eye Services (ACES)
- CHEC
- Spire Yale Hospital
- Nuffled Health Cardiff and Vale Hospital
- Spire Cardiff Hospital
- North Wales Eye Specialist Centre
- Werndale Hospital
- iLase Eye Clinic

4. The overall / total number of cataract surgery procedures undertaken in each financial year by year across your Health Board by each NHS Hospital and Private (Independent Sector) Provider from 2018/19 to 2023/24 broken down by individual NHS Hospital and Private Provider. Please additionally supply the total number of cataract surgery procedures undertaken by each NHS Hospital and Private Provider across your Health Board by each NHS Hospital and Private Provider on an individual level for the financial year of 2024/25 if this is presently available.

Please specifically specify your answer to Question 4 for the following Private Providers:

- Optical Express
- Optegra
- Spamedica
- Newmedica

- Anglia Community Eye Services (ACES)
 - CHEC
 - Spire Yale Hospital
 - Nuffield Health Cardiff and Vale Hospital
 - Spire Cardiff Hospital
 - North Wales Eye Specialist Centre
 - Werndale Hospital
 - iLase Eye Clinic
5. For the period 1st of April 2024 to YTD, please provide the names of all in NHS Hospital and Private (Independent Sector) Providers that have undertaken Cataract Surgery, YAG capsulotomy procedures, General Ophthalmology outpatient, Oculoplastic services, AMD services & Glaucoma services of any description to the Health Board.
6. Please provide the number of patients on waiting lists for cataract surgery at the Health Board as of:
- a. 1 January 2019
 - b. 1 January 2020
 - c. 1 January 2021
 - d. 1 January 2022
 - e. 1 January 2023
 - f. 1 January 2024
 - g. 1 January 2025
7. Please provide the number and percentage of patients who were waiting longer than 18 weeks from the date of referral to cataract surgery as of:
- a. 1 January 2019
 - b. 1 January 2020
 - c. 1 January 2021
 - d. 1 January 2022
 - e. 1 January 2023
 - f. 1 January 2024
 - g. 1 January 2025
8. Please provide the maximum and average wait times of patients on waiting lists for cataract surgery at the Health Board as of:
- a. 1 January 2019
 - b. 1 January 2020
 - c. 1 January 2021
 - d. 1 January 2022
 - e. 1 January 2023
 - f. 1 January 2024
 - g. 1 January 2025
9. Please provide the number and percentage of NHS funded patients who had Immediate Sequential Bilateral Cataract Surgery at Hospitals and Private Providers (individually and collectively) within your Health Board in each of the following financial years:
- a. 2019/2020
 - b. 2020/2021
 - c. 2021/2022
 - d. 2022/2023

- e. 2023/2024
- f. 2024/2025

10. Please provide the minimum, maximum and average number of eyes treated on cataract surgery lists (by session, up to 4 hours) at Hospitals and Private Providers (individually by provider) within your Health Board in each of the following financial years:

- a. 2019/2020
- b. 2020/2021
- c. 2021/2022
- d. 2022/2023
- e. 2023/2024
- f. 2024/2025

Clarified

5. The names of the hospitals.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is applying a Section 43 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) to part of the information requested for questions 3 and 4 that relate to four (4) of the third-party providers listed, as answering 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.

Against Disclosure: It is not within the expectation of the third parties that these details would be released into the public domain, and this in turn could impact negatively on the UHB's relationship with them, thus affecting our service delivery.

Decision: - The UHB has considered that releasing the information relating to its third-party providers broken down as requested under the FoIA, to which the UHB is subject, would impede upon the

UHB's relationship with the third-party providers. The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the contracted costs, is greater than the interests in disclosing it.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with some of the requested information as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding the following details under Section 40(2) of the FOIA:

- The figure in the table for question 4 has been replaced with an asterisk (*) due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5)
- The total figure in the table for question 2 has been replaced with a double asterisk (**) as it could be used to calculate the redacted figure withheld in question 4.

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.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the total spend on cataract procedures, as submitted to Welsh Government (WG) on the Welsh Costing Returns, during the 2018/19 to 2023/24 financial years. The data for the 2024/25 financial year is not currently available.

Financial year	Spend
2018/19	£4,968,948.00
2019/20	£4,699,304.00
2020/21	£616,871.00
2021/22	£5,397,768.00
2022/23	£2,589,956.00
2023/24	£2,499,423.00

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the total number of cataract procedures undertaken, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2018/19 to 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2018/19	2,115
2019/20	1,950
2020/21	289
2021/22	696
2022/23	1,124
2023/24	**
2024/25	1,235

Please note:- the data provided for questions 1 and 2 is recorded on two (2) different systems, therefore the data may not correlate.

3. A Section 43 exemption has been applied to the third-party costs broken down by provider and hospital. Additionally, the UHB does not hold the information broken down by hospital. However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the total NHS spend on cataract procedures undertaken across the UHB and the total private provider spend, as submitted to WG on the Welsh Costing Returns, during the 2018/19 to 2023/24 financial years. The data for the 2024/25 is not currently available.

Financial year	UHB hospital spend	Private providers spend
2018/19	£2,351,247.00	£2,617,701.00
2019/20	£2,775,922.00	£1,923,382.00
2020/21	£379,759.00	£237,112.00
2021/22	£2,696,679.00	£2,701,089.00
2022/23	£1,564,756.00	£1,025,200.00
2023/24	£2,299,087.00	£200,335.00

4. A Section 43 exemption has been applied to the third-party numbers broken down by provider and hospital. However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the total number of NHS cataract procedures undertaken across the UHB, by hospital, as recorded on the UHB's WPAS, during the 2018/19 to 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Amman Valley Hospital	Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)	Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)	Werndale Hospital
2018/19	391	596	1128	0	0
2019/20	505	534	911	0	0
2020/21	0	0	21	0	268
2021/22	0	375	321	0	0
2022/23	223	347	554	0	0
2023/24	759	323	625	*	0
2024/25	521	261	452	0	0

Please note:- Werndale was being used during the COVID-19 pandemic for the treatment of NHS patients.

Additionally, the UHB provides, within the table below, the total number of cataract procedures undertaken by private providers, as submitted to WG on the Welsh Costing Returns, during the 2018/19 to 2023/24 financial years. The data for the 2024/25 is not currently available.

Financial year	Number
2018/19	2,189
2019/20	1,682
2020/21	214
2021/22	2,951
2022/23	1,154
2023/24	163

Please note:- the data provided for questions 3 and 4 is recorded on two (2) different systems, therefore the data may not correlate.

5. The UHB provides, within the table below, the names of the NHS and private hospitals that undertook Cataract surgery, YAG Capsulotomy procedures, General Ophthalmology, Oculoplastic services, Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) services and Glaucoma services, during the period 1 April 2024 to the date of your request.

NHS	Private
Aberaeron Integrated Care Centre	SpaMedica – Swansea
Amman Valley Hospital	
Bronglais General Hospital	
Cardigan Integrated Care Centre	
Glangwili General Hospital	
North Road Eye Clinic	
Price Phillip Hospital	
Withybush General Hospital	

6. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients on a stage 4 pathway waiting list for cataract surgery, for the requested periods.

Period	Number
1 January 2019	1,159
1 January 2020	1,309
1 January 2021	2,407
1 January 2022	3,058
1 January 2023	2,223
1 January 2024	4,077
1 January 2025	6,356

7. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number and the percentage of patients that waited longer than eighteen (18) weeks from date of referral to cataract surgery, for the requested periods.

Period	Number	Percent
1 January 2019	622	53%
1 January 2020	596	45%
1 January 2021	2,012	83%
1 January 2022	2,461	80%
1 January 2023	1,704	76%
1 January 2024	3,443	84%
1 January 2025	5,675	89%

8. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the average and maximum wait times of patients on a waiting list for cataract surgery, in weeks, for the requested periods.

Period	Average wait	Maximum wait
1 January 2019	19	49
1 January 2020	17	57
1 January 2021	46	90
1 January 2022	54	185
1 January 2023	49	210

1 January 2024	52	132
1 January 2025	60	155

9. The UHB does not hold all of the information requested, as it does not use private providers within its hospitals. However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number and percentage of NHS funded patients who received Immediate Sequential Bilateral Cataract Surgery at a UHB hospital, during the 2019/20 to 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Number	Percent
2019/20	10	0.51%
2020/21	6	2.08%
2021/22	5	0.72%
2022/23	11	0.98%
2023/24	11	0.64%
2024/25	19	1.54%

10. The UHB provides, within the table below, the minimum, maximum and average number of eyes treated on cataract surgery lists, at a UHB hospital, during the 2019/20 to 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Minimum	Maximum	Average
2019/20	4	5	5
2020/21	0	0	0
2021/22	0	3	2
2022/23	4	5	5
2023/24	4	5	5
2024/25	5	7	6