

Reference:	FOI.4305.20
Subject:	Cauda equina claims
Date of Request:	19 October 2020

Requested:

Are you able to tell me how many of the cauda equina claims are open or closed claims and how many are potential or confirmed claims for the years 2015/16 2016/17 2017/18 2018/19 and 2019/20?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, the number of cauda equina claims that are open, closed or withdrawn, from the financial year 2015/16 to 2019/20 as requested.

Status	Type	Number of claims
Open	Potential	1
Closed	Settled	4
Withdrawn	Not applicable	2

The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of claims broken down by year due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.