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| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.19910.26                          |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Cholecystectomy surgery waiting times |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 13 March 2026                         |

**Requested:**

1. I would like to make a Freedom of Information request, specifically for the figures showing the number of patients awaiting Cholecystectomy surgery, from the point of referral to when they get the procedure across your hospitals, broken down by-
  - a. Year (From 2018-19 and every year since, for which data is available)
  - b. How long they have been waiting from zero to three months, three to six months, six to twelve months, over a year , over two years and over five years.”

Please can this be delivered in the form of a table- with years as rows and numbers of patients as columns or vice-versa.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the number of patients awaiting Cholecystectomy surgery, from the date of referral to procedure, broken down by year and wait time, during the financial years 2018/2019 to 2025/2026, at Attachment 1.

Where the figures in the attachment has been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients (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 Freedom of Information Act. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) 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.