

Reference:	FOI.4190.20
Subject:	Circumcision of male patients
Date of Request:	5 October 2020

Requested:

1. I would like to know how many such circumcisions were carried out by your Health Board in the years 2018 and 2019, or any similar time period for which records are readily available.

If possible I would like to be provided with a breakdown of the ages of the patients at the time of the procedure; either in the way in which this information is already recorded by yourselves, or alternatively in the following way:-

- ages 0-5
 - ages 6-11
 - ages 12-17
 - ages 18+
- (all age brackets inclusive)

2. I would also like a list of the hospitals or other similar facilities that your Health Board has used for this procedure, including those outside the geographical area of your Health Board and those in the private sector.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, the number of circumcision procedures, by age group, for the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 to date.

Age group	2018	2019	2020 to date
0-5	6	8	0
6-11	14	20	7
12-17	17	14	*
18+	143	136	47

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 (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.

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the hospitals used for circumcision procedures.

Hospital
Bronglais General Hospital
Glangwili General Hospital
Prince Philip Hospital
Werndale Hospital

The UHB does not hold information regarding surgical procedures undertaken outside of its geographical area. The UHB would only be aware of referrals being made to an external provider if an application for out of area funding was requested.