

Reference:	FOI.16442.25
Subject:	Corrective surgery due to complications from surgery abroad
Date of Request:	23 January 2025

Requested:

1. How many patients in total have had to have corrective surgery to deal with complications from surgery abroad in each of the following financial years: 2021-22; 2022-2023; 2023-2024, 2024-present?
2. How many surgical procedures have been carried out in total on PTHB patients to revise or deal with complications from surgery carried out abroad in each of the financial years: 2021-22; 2022-2023; 2023-2024, 2024- present?
3. How much is the total spend, or failing that the estimated spend, to the health board of corrective surgeries to deal with complications from surgeries carried out abroad in each of the following financial years: 2021-22; 2022-2023; 2023-2024, 2024- present?
4. What types of corrective surgery have taken place to deal with complications for PTHB patients from surgery that has taken place abroad in the last 5 financial years? E.g. bariatric, plastic, maxillofacial
5. What types of initial operation have taken place abroad (for example, gastric band surgery, breast reduction) have needed revision in Wales by NHS surgeons in the last 5 financial years?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with 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 and 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 centrally record procedures relating to complications from cosmetic surgery received abroad. Therefore, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all medical records, to identify any information that would fulfil your request.

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.

Additionally, UHB patients that require treatment for complications resulting from cosmetic surgery would be referred to the closest Health Board that can provide treatment, depending on the referral falling within the NHS criteria.