Reference:	FOI.21368.26
Subject:	Data breaches
Date of Request:	17 August 2026

Requested:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning personal data breaches recorded by your Health Board since 2020.
For each financial year from 2020–21 to 2025–26, please provide:

1. The total number of personal data/GDPR breaches recorded by the Health Board.

2. Of these breaches, the number classified as:
   a. NHS staff/internal – breaches involving the personal data of Health Board employees, staff or other individuals working for the Health Board;
   b. Patients/public/external – breaches involving the personal data of patients, former patients, members of the public or other individuals external to the Health Board; and
   c. Both staff and patients/public, where a single breach affected both groups. The number of these breaches which resulted in a financial compensation payment being made to an affected individual or organisation.

3. For each financial year, the total amount paid in compensation as a result of personal data/GDPR breaches.

4. If available, please provide a breakdown of the compensation payments according to the number of claims/payments made and the total amount paid in each financial year.

For clarity, I am seeking information on personal data breaches recorded by the Health Board, whether or not the breach was subsequently reported to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Where the Health Board uses different terminology or categorisation for internal and external breaches, I would be grateful if you could provide the information according to your own recorded classification and briefly explain the definitions used.

Response:

1 & 2. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information requested is already in the public domain and accessible by another means. The UHB has answered similar Freedom of Information requests, which are available on our disclosure log:

- FOI.19618.26 – Patient confidentiality breaches
- FOI.20232.26 – Patient confidentiality breaches

A link to the UHB's disclosure log webpage is provided below:

Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board (nhs.wales)
Please note: when searching, please search by title rather than reference number

3. The UHB provides within the table below, the amounts paid in compensation as a result of data breaches, during the 2020/21 to 2025/26 financial years.

Financial year	Paid
2020/21	£0.00
2021/22	£0.00
2022/23	£3,000.00
2023/24	£0.00
2024/25	£0.00

4. The UHB is unable to provide you with the information broken down by financial year, as requested, due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

   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.