

Reference:	FOI.13510.24
Subject:	Decontamination services
Date of Request:	3 January 2024

Requested:

1. What is the age of the AER machines currently installed?
2. What is the approximate year the AER machines will be replaced and has a case been put forward for this yet?
3. What is the manufacturer/brand of the current AER machines?
4. How many AER machines do you have across the hospitals?
5. Are you happy with your current supplier or are you experiencing problems?
6. How many scopes are you processing per week?
7. What is the name and contact details of your decontamination manager?
8. As part of your contingency planning during disaster recovery, decant, replacement or refurbishment, would you or have you considered using a mobile decontamination unit?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, the ages of the Automated Endoscope Reprocessor (AER) machines currently installed.

Hospital	Age
Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)	15 years and 10 Years
Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	8 Years
Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)	3 years
Withybush General Hospital (WGH)	6 Years

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the approximate years the AER machines will be replaced.

Hospital	Replacement year
BGH	Currently working on a business case to replace
GGH	2025
PPH	2031
WGH	2028

3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the manufacturer of the AER machines.

Hospital	Manufacturer
BGH	Wassenburg
GGH	Getinge

PPH	Getinge
WGH	Getinge

4. The UHB provides, within, the table below, the number of AER machines it has, by hospital.

Hospital	Number
BGH	2
GGH	4
PPH	3
WGH	2

Please note, all AER machines in GGH, PPH and WGH were installed at each respective site during the same calendar year, as detailed in response to question 1.

5. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) covers any recorded information that is held by a public authority; recorded information includes printed documents, computer files, letters, emails, photographs, and sound or video recordings. The FoIA does not cover information on estimates, opinions or recommendations. The UHB has an obligation to provide information already in recorded form but cannot create new information to answer a question.

6. The UHB provides, with the table overleaf, the approximate number of scopes processed per week.

Hospital	Number per week
BGH	60
GGH	180
PPH	128
WGH	111

7. The UHB's decontamination manager is Mr Phillip Flear, who can be contacted by email: philip.flear@wales.nhs.uk

8. The UHB confirms that mobile decontamination units are considered and used as and when needed. A mobile decontamination unit was delivered to Prince Philip Hospital, whilst the previous endoscope washers were being replaced. This unit was used for a six (6) month period and enabled the UHB to continue with the throughput of endoscope procedures for patient treatment episodes. The UHB would always recommend a mobile unit in such instances, provided the water quality etc. was acceptable.