

Reference:	FOI.19214.26
Subject:	Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) Ultrasound data
Date of Request:	5 January 2026

Requested:

Please provide the following information for December 2024 to November 2025, financial year 2024/25, or the most recent 12 month period available:

Scan volume

1. Total number of lower limb duplex or Doppler ultrasound scans performed for suspected deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Waiting times

2. Average time from order to completion, or request to scan completion, whichever your systems record.

a. If recorded, the number or percentage of patients who received their scan within:

- i. 4 hours
 - ii. between 4 and 24 hours
 - iii. between 24 and 48 hours
 - iv. more than 48 hours after request
- (for example: X% within 4 hours, Y% between 4 and 24 hours, Z% more than 48 hours, etc).*

Overnight admissions

3. Number admitted overnight specifically to await their scan, if recorded.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all 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 Act 2000 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all the information for question 3, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of all inpatient records that occupied a bed overnight, to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that the total number of beds occupied overnight during the 2025 calendar year was four hundred and thirteen thousand and one (413,001), with thirty-four thousand, eight hundred and forty nine (34,849) beds occupied in December 2025 alone. It is estimated that a manual search of these records would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified for December alone, conducting a search of patient records taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

34,849 @ 5 minutes per record = 2,892 hours and 28 minutes
2,892 hours and 28 minutes @ £25 per hour = £72,311.68

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

The UHB suggests that you may refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested. However, the UHB would still be required to undertake a manual search of patient records to identify any information to fulfil your request, and therefore, the outcome may be the same.

Furthermore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for questions 1 and 2 below.

1. The UHB confirms that one thousand, six hundred and forty-five (1,645) lower limb ultrasound scans were performed for suspected DVT, during the period 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025.
2. The UHB confirms that the average time from request to scan completion is two (2) days.
 - a. The UHB provides within the table below, the percentage of patients who received their scan within the time periods requested, during the period 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025.

i.	0%
ii.	28%
iii.	53%
iv.	19%

3. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA applied.