

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.20165.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Elective waiting list mortalities
<b>Date of Request:</b>	10 April 2026

**Requested:**

**Recorded deaths while on elective waiting lists**

1. The number of patients recorded as having died while on an elective (planned care) waiting list, for each calendar year from 2010 to 2024 inclusive (or the most recent available recorded point if later data is held).

Where this information is not held in a directly extractable form, please provide any equivalent internally used dataset, report, or monitoring category that captures patients who died while awaiting planned inpatient or outpatient treatment.

**Data recording and system structure**

2. If the Health Board does not hold or routinely report this information, please confirm:
  - whether deaths of patients on waiting lists are identifiable in any administrative, clinical, audit, or reporting system;
  - whether any linkage exists between waiting list records and mortality records; and
  - whether such linkage or reporting has ever been used for internal governance, audit, or reporting to Welsh Government or external bodies.

**Data limitations (explanatory detail)**

3. If the requested information is not held or cannot be provided in the requested form, please indicate the primary reason(s), including but not limited to:
  - absence of a coded field,
  - lack of linkage between waiting list and mortality records,
  - or other data structure or recording limitations.

**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 and the 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.

As the data prior to 1 January 2016 is not centrally recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of all patient records, for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2015, to identify any information that may 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.

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.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of patient records to be undertaken for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2015, to identify any of the information requested.

Under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients that passed away from any cause whilst on an elective waiting list for treatment, as recorded on the UHB's WPAS, during the 2016 to 2025 calendar years and the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>Number</b>
2016	1,317	2022	2,953
2017	2,074	2023	2,776
2018	2,095	2024	2,904
2019	2,241	2025	2,789
2020	2,492	1 January to	748
2021	2,732	31 March 2026	

2. Not applicable.
3. Please see Section 12 exemption explanation.