

Reference:	FOI.13685.24
Subject:	Endoscopy services
Date of Request:	29 January 2024

Requested:

We would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your endoscopy services at the hospitals.

1. How many patients do you have on the endoscopy waiting list?
2. What is the name of the endoscopy lead who oversees the endoscopy decisions?
3. How many scopes are you processing per week?
4. Are you planning any refurbishments, decants or expansions to the endoscopy department to expand or improve the services this year?
5. What are the typical issues you are experiencing within endoscopy services?
6. Have you ever used or considered using a mobile endoscopy unit and if so which one?
7. If you were to look at a mobile endoscopy unit, would you require staffing?
8. Do you currently use insourcing for your endoscopy lists and if so who do you use?
9. Do you have a contingency plan if you experience a disaster situation or the endoscopy unit is unusable?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it has two thousand two hundred and fifty-eight (2,258) patients on the active Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy waiting list, as at 12 February 2024.
2. The UHB's Endoscopy decisions are overseen by the Managerial Lead Sara Edwards, Service Delivery Manager, Endoscopy & Gastroenterology and the Clinical Leads Faiz Ali, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Dafydd Bowen, Consultant Gastroenterologist.
3. The UHB confirms that approximately two hundred and sixty-eight (268) GI scopes are processed across the UHB per week.
4. The UHB confirms that there are no plans in place for any refurbishments, decants or expansions to the Endoscopy Department to expand or improve the services this year.
5. The UHB confirms that the issues experienced within the Endoscopy Service are a backlog of patients on the waiting list, workforce fragility and recruitment challenges, the capacity to meet growing demand and bowel screening optimisation and the effects on growing demand.
6. The UHB confirms that it has never used and has not considered using a mobile endoscopy unit.

7. Not applicable.
8. The UHB confirms that it does not use insourcing for its Endoscopy lists.
9. The UHB confirms that it does have a business continuity plan in place.