

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.16902.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Funding requests
<b>Date of Request:</b>	19 March 2025

**Requested:**

I would like to request funding data for the last three years involving yourselves and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen.

I don't know the precise manner the data is held in, so as a worked example; I believe if a patient is treated at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen a course of drugs is required to be funded, the patients local health board in Wales is then contacted for a contribution / all of the cost of the course. This request can be accepted or rejected.

I would like to request data on the number of such requests, outcome of the requests, and if possible details on the sums (£) involved, groups where easiest eg. per calendar month.

I would like to request the data for the last two complete financial years, and the current financial year to date.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms all referrals for treatment outside of the UHB must receive prior approval. The Referral Management Centre (RMC) considers all requests for prior approval, which must be requested using either a prior approval funding request form or as a continuation request, any requests outside of this process cannot be considered.

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (5 or less), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with a total number of requests received as this would disclose the previously redacted figure. However, the UHB can confirm it has not declined/rejected any funding requests for medication treatment received from the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJAH) during the requested timeframe.

The UHB is withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, 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.

Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, a breakdown of the approved referrals to RJAH along with the costs of medication and/or treatment, during 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years and the period 1 April 2024 to 28 March 2025.

<b>Date period</b>	<b>No. of referrals</b>	<b>Speciality/Intervention</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	*	Rheumatology – Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) treatment	£15,035.00
1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024	16	Rheumatology - Anti-TNF treatment	£44,614.00
1 April 2024 – 28 March 2025	15	Rheumatology - Anti-TNF treatment	£45,764.00