

Reference:	FOI.9973.22
Subject:	GP branch practice closures
Date of Request:	4 October 2022

Requested:

1. How many branch surgery closure applications has the Health Board received in the last five years, from January 2017-January 2022?
2. Of the total number, how many applications have been made by independent GP contractor Practices and how many have been requests to close Health Board Managed Practices?
3. How many applications have been approved and how many Health Board owned Branch surgery closures have been approved?
4. Has there been a different process for Health Board owned Practices?
5. For a Hywel Dda owned surgery, has the decision been made internally by Hywel Dda UHB or has the process been handled by an external agency or other HB?
6. If Hywel Dda made its decisions for its own owned branch Practices whether to remain open or close, why was this not managed by a different Health Board or external agency?
7. Has the branch surgery closure application process been adhered to on each occasion by the Health Board?

Response:

1. During the requested timeframe, Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) received one application to close a branch practice. An additional request for closure of a Managed Practice Branch was received; however, the General Medical Service (GMS) regulations that apply to independent contractors are not applicable to Managed Practices, and as such, this was not considered an application for closure.
2. The UHB received one request to close an Independent GP Contractor Branch Practice, and one Managed Practice Branch during the specified timeframe.
3. None of the applications were approved by the UHB.
4. Managed Practices are not bound by GMS regulations and therefore would not apply for closure.
5. Not applicable as GMS regulations do not apply.
6. Not applicable as GMS regulations do not apply.
7. Yes, GMS regulations were complied with when considering the application for the closure of the Independent GP Branch Practice.