

Reference:	FOI.19097.25
Subject:	Gynaecology care
Date of Request:	12 December 2025

Requested:

I am requesting information regarding gynaecology care. Specifically, I would like to know, between 2005 and 2025:

- The total number of patients who have had TVT or TVT-O vaginal mesh inserted within the Health Board.

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 continence and gynaecology patient records for the period 1 January 2005 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 2005 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 can confirm that sixty-five (65) Transvaginal Tape (TVT) and Transobturator Tape - Outside-In (TVT-O) vaginal mesh insertions were undertaken during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2025, as recorded on the WPAS.