

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.20481.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Halal/Kosher meat
<b>Date of Request:</b>	19 May 2026

**Requested:**

Thank you for your response to my recent FOI request (your ref: FOI/20057/26).

In your response you confirm that 16.73% of meats provided across your hospitals is Halal/Kosher (religiously slaughtered).

Latest Census information (2021) would suggest that Muslims and Jews make up a confined percentage of just 0.6% of the population of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion i.e. the area covered by Hywel Dda UHB.

This means you are providing more than 35 times more religiously slaughtered meat than one would expect.

Please could you explain the rationale behind this and at what level religiously slaughtered meat procurement is authorised within the Board's management.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the figure of 16.73% provided relates to the proportion of meat products classified as Halal or Kosher within our supply chain. This does not directly equate to meat procured specifically in response to the religious demographic profile of the local population.

A significant proportion of poultry products supplied to the UHB via its contracted supplier, Castell Howell, are certified as Halal as part of standard commercial production and distribution practices. These products are widely used across the UK food supply chain and are not procured exclusively for religious purposes. In many cases, Halal-certified poultry represents the most readily available, cost-effective, and efficiently sourced option that meets our required quality, food safety, and animal welfare standards.

Additionally, patient catering services must be inclusive and flexible, ensuring that meals are suitable for a wide range of dietary, cultural, and religious needs without requiring separate procurement streams where possible. Using products that are acceptable to multiple groups supports operational efficiency, reduces complexity, and helps minimise food waste.

Procurement decisions are made in accordance with UHB procurement policies and delegated authority arrangements, ensuring compliance with value-for-money principles, supply continuity, and contractual obligations. The inclusion of Halal-certified products is therefore an outcome of broader supply chain and operational considerations rather than a targeted allocation based solely on local religious demographics.

It is also important to note that the population referenced in census data reflects residents within Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Ceredigion, whereas our services support a broader and more diverse group of patients, visitors, and staff whose dietary requirements are not fully captured within those figures.