

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.4819.20
<b>Subject:</b>	Hallux Valgus (bunion) surgery
<b>Date of Request:</b>	21 December 2020

**Requested:**

I'd like to submit a freedom of information request regarding hallux valgus procedures undertaken in Withybush Hospital in the last 3 years.

In particular, I'd like to be provided with:

1. The names of the orthopaedic surgeons who have carried out hallux valgus procedures in Withybush in the last 3 years.
2. How many procedures were carried out by each of these orthopaedic surgeons

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is withholding the names of the orthopaedic surgeons requested. This decision has been made as it is not within the expectations of these individuals that their personal data would be put into the public domain. This information is classed as personal data of third parties and is therefore being withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by virtue of section 40(3) (a) (i) of the Act which permits a public authority to withhold personal data other than the requester's where the disclosure would breach a Data Protection Principle.

Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide you with the number of procedures by surgeon due to the low numbers (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore also withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.

Whilst operating in accordance with the Chancellor's Code of Practice under Section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance.

Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of Hallux Valgus procedures undertaken in Withybush General Hospital (WGH), during the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of procedures	80	37	9