

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.19887.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Head and neck cancer
<b>Date of Request:</b>	11 March 2026

**Requested:**

1. Does your Trust treat patients for head and neck cancer (Squamous cell carcinoma)? If no, which Trust do you refer patients onto for treatment?
  
2. Within your trust, how many patients have been treated in the past 3 months for head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) with the following?
  - Surgery only
  - Radiotherapy only
  - Surgery + Radiotherapy
  - Carboplatin (only or in combination with 5-FU)
  - Cisplatin (only or in combination with 5-FU)
  - Cetuximab with/without chemotherapy
  - Cetuximab with radiotherapy
  - Pembrolizumab monotherapy
  - Pembrolizumab with chemotherapy
  - Nivolumab
  - Docetaxel (only or in combination with 5-FU)
  - Fluorouracil (5FU) monotherapy
  - Any other chemotherapy (without radiotherapy)
  - Any other chemotherapy (with radiotherapy)
  
3. Could you please provide the number of patients treated in the past 3 months with the following agents for metastatic head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)?
  - Cetuximab with/without chemotherapy
  - Pembrolizumab monotherapy
  - Pembrolizumab with chemotherapy
  - Nivolumab
  - Docetaxel (only or in combination with 5-FU)
  - Any other chemotherapy (without radiotherapy)
  - Any other chemotherapy (with radiotherapy)
  
4. How many patients who received Pembrolizumab for head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) in the last 3 months, received:
  - Treatment every 3 weeks (200mg, Q3W)
  - Treatment every 6 weeks (400mg, Q6W)
  
5. Does your trust participate in any clinical trials for head and neck cancer? If so, please provide the trial details and number of patients who are taking part.

**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.

The UHB does not define head and neck cancers into squamous or non-squamous. Therefore, in order to provide you with the data requested for questions 2 and 3, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of the medical records of those diagnosed with head and neck cancer to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request, as this is not recorded centrally.

Additionally, the UHB does not categorise cancer surgeries by type. Therefore, to provide you with the number of patients that have received surgery as a treatment for head and neck cancer specifically, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual trawl of all patients that have undergone surgery as part of their treatment plan to identify the information that would fulfil this part of 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.

The UHB suggests that you resubmit your request and provide a list of diagnoses, not ICD-10 codes, that you define as squamous. However, the UHB would still be required to undertake a manual search of patient records to identify any information to fulfil your request, and therefore, the outcome may be the same.

1. The UHB confirms that it does treat patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer.
2. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA has been applied. However, under Section 16, the UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients to receive the listed treatments for all types head and neck cancer, during the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Surgery only	Section 12 exemption applied
Radiotherapy only	**Not held
Surgery + Radiotherapy	**Not held
Carboplatin (only or in combination with 5-FU)	*
Cisplatin (only or in combination with 5-FU)	0
Cetuximab with/without chemotherapy	0
Cetuximab with radiotherapy	0
Pembrolizumab monotherapy	8

Pembrolizumab with chemotherapy	0
Nivolumab	*
Docetaxel (only or in combination with 5-FU)	0
Fluorouracil (5FU) monotherapy	0
Any other chemotherapy (without radiotherapy)	*
Any other chemotherapy (with radiotherapy)	0

\*\*The UHB regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested for Radiotherapy. The UHB's patients that require Radiotherapy are seen, treated and managed by Singleton Hospital, within Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB). Therefore, we recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team at SBUHB, who may be able to help you further. The contact details have been provided below:

[FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk) or alternatively, you can contact: FOIA Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Health Board Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.

3. An exemption under Section 12 of the FoIA has been applied. However, under Section 16, the UHB confirms that it has not treated any patients for metastatic head and neck cancer with the listed medications, during the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.
4. The UHB confirms that all eight (8) patients that were treated with Pembrolizumab, received treatment every 6 weeks (400mg, Q6W).
5. The UHB confirms that it has not participated in any clinical trials for the treatment of head and neck cancer.