

Reference:	FOI.21025.26
Subject:	Head and Neck Cancer
Date of Request:	14 July 2026

Requested:

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. 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)
4. Could you please provide the number of patients treated in the past 3 months with the following agents for locally advanced head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)?
 - Pembrolizumab monotherapy

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 keep a central record of whether head and neck cancers are squamous or non-squamous. Therefore, in order to provide you with the data requested for questions 1 - 4, 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.

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 providing 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.

Additionally, where stated or where the figures in the table has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.

1. 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 of head and neck cancer, during the period 1 April to 30 June 2026.

Treatment	Number
Surgery only	113
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

Please note: the 'Surgery only' data may be incomplete as some of the activity is yet to be coded. The information provided is as was recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) at 14 August 2026.

**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 or alternatively, you can contact: FOIA Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Health Board Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.

2. 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 April to 30 June 2026.
3. Section 40 exemption applied.
4. The UHB confirms that seven (7) patients were treated with Pembrolizumab monotherapy for all types of head and neck cancer, during the period 1 April to 30 June 2026.