

Reference:	FOI.4335.20
Subject:	Knee replacement surgery
Date of Request:	22 October 2020

Requested:

1. For the Hywel Dda University Health Board area, for each of the last 3 years for which figures are available:
 - a. Number of patients diagnosed as needing partial or full knee replacement surgery.
 - b. Number of patients who have undergone full or partial knee replacement surgery.
 - c. Number of patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area, (outside of the UK), for full or partial knee replacement surgery.
 - d. Number of patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania.
 - e. Number of patients approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area (outside of the UK).
 - f. Number of patients who have been approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania.
 - g. Average waiting time for full or partial knee surgery.

2. For the NHS in Wales, for each of the last 3 years for which figures are available:
 - a. Number of patients diagnosed as needing partial or full knee replacement surgery.
 - b. Number of patients who have undergone full or partial knee replacement surgery.
 - c. Number of patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area, (outside of the UK), for full or partial knee replacement surgery.
 - d. Number of patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania.
 - e. Number of patients approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area (outside of the UK).
 - f. Number of patients who have been approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania.

Response:

1a. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, the number of patients referred to orthopaedics, diagnosed as needing partial or full knee replacement surgery, as recorded on the UHB's electronic records system, Myrddin, for the financial years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Financial year	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Number	1,690	1,684	1,619

1b. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients who have undergone full or partial knee replacement surgery, as recorded on Myrddin, for the financial years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Financial year	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Number	616	699	523

1c. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients who have sought Prior Approval for full or partial knee surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area, as recorded on Myrddin, for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date the date of request.

Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020 to date
Number	58	*	0

1d. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients who have sought Prior Approval for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania, as recorded on Myrddin, for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date the date of request.

Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020 to date
Number	*	0	0

1e. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area (outside of the UK), as recorded on Myrddin, for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date the date of request.

Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020 to date
Number	*	*	0

1f. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients that have been approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania, as recorded on Myrddin, for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 to date the date of request.

Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020 to date
Number	0	0	0

1g. The UHB provides, within the table below, the average weekly waiting times from referral to admission for full or partial knee surgery, as recorded on Myrddin, for the financial years 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Financial year	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Weekly average waiting time	616	699	523

Where the figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), 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 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.

2. The UHB is unable to provide the information requested as it is not held.

We therefore suggest you contact the other Local Health Boards (LHB) in Wales directly for this information. Contact details for each LHB can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wales.nhs.uk/ourservices/directory/LocalHealthBoards>