

Reference:	FOI.17342.25
Subject:	Knife assaults
Date of Request:	15 May 2025

Requested:

For the financial year 2024–2025 (April 1st, 2024 to March 31st, 2025):

1. Please provide the number of individuals aged 7 to 25 who attended Accident & Emergency (A&E) departments within your health board following an assault involving a knife, bladed article, or sharp object.
 - a. We would like this data broken down by age bands:
 - 7–10 years
 - 11–13 years
 - 14–16 years
 - 17–18 years
 - 19–25 years
 - b. Broken down by A&E department (e.g., by hospital name or location).
 - c. Gender of the individual, where recorded.
 - d. Whether the attendance resulted in hospital admission.
 - e. Whether a mental health or safeguarding referral was made as part of the attendance (if recorded).

Additional further information

(if available and permissible within cost/time constraints):

2. Trends over the past three financial years (2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24) using the same breakdowns as above.
3. Referrals to youth services or social work resulting from such attendances.
4. Geographical breakdowns beyond A&E department (e.g., local authority or postcode sector).
5. Data on individuals attending A&E more than once for knife-related injuries (repeat attendees).

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with any of the information requested due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, 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.