

Reference:	FOI.12813.23
Subject:	Lip biopsies
Date of Request:	6 October 2023

Requested:

Could I please make the following request:

1. How many lip biopsies have been conducted on the NHS within your health board area in the last 3 months.
2. How many lip biopsies have been conducted on the NHS within your health board area in the last 2 months.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that seven (7) lip biopsies were undertaken, during the period 1 July to 30 September 2023.
2. The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of lip biopsies undertaken during the period 1 August to 30 September 2023, due to the low numbers 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 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.