

Reference:	FOI.13095.23
Subject:	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scans
Date of Request:	10 November 2023

Requested:

Please provide the information for the five financial years ending 2021/22.

Please may you provide me with:

1. The number of MRI scans performed for the following:
 - Central Nervous System
 - Brain
 - Spine
 - Other Surrounding Tissue
 - Whole Body
 - Head & Neck
 - Thorax, including Breast
 - Abdomen, including Liver & Kidneys
 - Pelvis, including Prostate
 - Musculo-skeletal system
 - Other
 - Cardiac
 - Angiography
2. The number of MRI scans for the above listed investigations using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent(s).
3. The average number of doses of a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent(s) per scan.
4. The number of rescans, which are performed due to the outcome of a poor-quality image when using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent in the initial scan.
5. The number of rereports required due to the outcome of a poor-quality image when using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent in the initial scan.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of 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.

As the information requested for questions 4 and 5 is not collated and recorded centrally, the UHB would need undertake a manual trawl of all Radiology patient records, for the 2017/18 to 2022/23 financial years, to identify any information that may fulfil 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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for questions 1 to 3 below.

Where the figures in the tables overleaf 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 (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 defines 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. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of MRI scans performed for the listed scan areas, during the 2017/18 to 2021/22 financial years.

Scan area	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Central Nervous System	30	30	33	18	25
Brain	5,558	6,110	5,244	3,682	5,236
Spine	5,922	7,422	6,572	3,788	6,065
Other Surrounding Tissue	0	0	0	0	0
Whole Body	0	0	0	16	35
Head & Neck	366	372	331	415	382
Thorax, including Breast	73	55	69	57	64
Abdomen, including Liver & Kidneys	1,766	1,766	1,724	1,586	1,711
Pelvis, including Prostate	1,863	2,230	2,416	1,821	2,473
Musculo-skeletal system	3,243	3,866	3,086	1,275	2,221
Other	0	10	10	*	*
Cardiac	0	0	0	0	28
Angiography	238	296	259	252	334

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of MRI scans performed for the listed scan areas, using a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent, during the 2017/18 to 2021/22 financial years.

Scan area	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Central Nervous System	27	29	*	*	*
Brain	4,231	4,777	1,171	909	1,175
Spine	5,693	7,199	209	162	178
Other Surrounding Tissue	0	0	0	0	0

Whole Body	0	0	0	0	0
Head & Neck	204	245	86	107	120
Thorax, including Breast	30	21	40	34	35
Abdomen, including Liver & Kidneys	929	951	830	833	862
Pelvis, including Prostate	1,677	2,039	135	136	215
Musculo-skeletal system	3,004	3,692	47	30	83
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Cardiac	0	0	0	0	0
Angiography	212	190	18	41	121

3. The UHB confirms that the average number of doses of a macrocyclic gadolinium contrast agent is one (1) per scan.