

Reference:	FOI.5583.21
Subject:	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
Date of Request:	15 March 2021

Requested:

1. For the calendar year of 2019, please could you tell me how many individual MRI examinations were performed overall?
2. For the calendar year of 2019, please could you give a breakdown of the individual MRI examinations performed into body part/area? For instance, how many brain scans, spine scans etc. I am happy with whichever body part description is input in the PACS system.
3. As of March 1st 2021, how many MRI requests are on the waiting list waiting to be scanned? Please could I have this broken down into individual body part/examination too (like in question 2)?
4. How much money was paid to private companies during the calendar year 2019 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies staffing hospital scanners to scan NHS patients?
5. From question 4 which companies were used and how many patients were scanned?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that 19,442 MRI examinations were performed across the UHB, during the calendar year 2019.
2. The UHB provides, within the table below, a breakdown of the MRI examinations, by body area, during the calendar year 2019.

MRI	Number
Abdomen	1,766
Breast	32
Head	5,436
Limbs	2,662
Neck	319
Pelvis	2,704
Spine	6,447
Thorax	65
Whole body	11
Total	19,442

3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of MRI requests on the waiting list, broken down by body area, as at 1 March 2021.

MRI	Number
Abdomen	208
Breast	*
Head	759
Limbs	466
Neck	51
Pelvis	190
Spine	1,501
Thorax	12

Where the figure 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 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.

4. The UHB confirms that no remuneration was paid to private companies for the outsourcing of MRI examinations, during the calendar year 2019.
5. Not applicable.