

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.6106.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS)
<b>Date of Request:</b>	28 May 2021

**Requested:**

1. How many Maternal Request Caesarean Sections were carried out in your Trust between April 2019 and April 2020 with no other significant medical, obstetric or psychological indication?
2. What were the total number of caesarean sections carried out in your Trust between April 2019 and April 2020?
3. Please confirm how your Trust complies with the revised NICE guideline [NG192] in relation to Maternal Request for Caesarean Birth points 1.2.25 – 1.2.31 – published 31 March 2021 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng192/chapter/Recommendations>
4. Do you have an explicitly stated policy not to offer Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS) in your Trust?
5. Do you have a written guideline for Maternal Request Caesarean Sections (MRCS) in your Trust? If yes, please provide a copy of the written guideline.
6. Do you require a compulsory mental health appointment in order for a caesarean section to be offered?
7. Do you have a policy which states the number of weeks into pregnancy the decision for a caesarean section would be made? If yes, please state number of weeks.
8. Are there any other conditions which must be met in order to be offered a Maternal Request Caesarean Section in your Trust? If yes, please provide a copy of the conditions.

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all maternity patient notes to identify any information that would fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not held centrally.

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.

2. The UHB confirms that 739 caesarean sections were performed during the period 1 April 2019 and 30 April 2020.

3. The UHB confirms that as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines referred to were recently published, they are currently being reviewed, with the UHB's guidelines being updated accordingly.
4. The UHB confirms that it does not have an explicitly stated policy not to offer MRCS.
5. The UHB confirms that it does not have written guidelines for MRCS.
6. The UHB confirms that it does not require a compulsory mental health appointment in order for a caesarean section to be offered.
7. The UHB confirms that it operates in accordance with NICE guidelines, with the decision for an elective caesarean section being made at 39 weeks plus into pregnancy, if no medical foetal issues have been identified.
8. The UHB confirms that there are no other conditions that must be met in order to be offered a MRCS.