

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.20163.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Mesh slings
<b>Date of Request:</b>	10 April 2026

**Requested:**

1. How many mesh slings for stress urinary incontinence known as TVT, TVTO, TOT were implanted into women from 2008 until the UK suspension in July 2018?
2. How many mesh slings have been implanted from 10 July 2018 until 10 April 2026?

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all 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 UHB’s Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) only holds data for ten (10) years, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of all continence and gynaecology patient records for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2016, to identify any information that may fulfil your request, as this information is not recorded 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.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of patient records to be undertaken for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2016, to identify any of the information requested.

Under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that seven hundred and twenty-five (725) Transvaginal Tape (TVT), Transobturator Tape - Outside-In (TVT-O) and Transobturator Tape (TOT) mesh sling insertions were undertaken, as recorded on the WPAS, during the period 1 April 2016 to 9 July 2018.
2. The UHB confirms that a total of five (5) TVT, TVT-O and TOT mesh sling insertions were undertaken during the period 10 July 2018 to 8 November 2018, as recorded on the WPAS. No procedures of this type were undertaken during the period 9 November 2018 to 10 April 2026.