

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.18416.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Miscarriage surgeries and genetic testing
<b>Date of Request:</b>	24 September 2025

**Requested:**

1. The number of surgical removals for a miscarriage under 20 weeks, known as Dilation and Evacuation, which took place in your health board in the past five years (please specify date periods used).
2. The number of these surgeries which were sent for genetic testing

**Our response**

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 limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (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.

To provide you with the number of Dilation and Evacuation procedures undertaken during the requested time period, the UHB would be required to contact several teams and services across the UHB, including but not limited to the Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments, Early Pregnancy Units (EPU) and Minor Injuries Units to request a manual trawl of patient records, in addition to a search of any referrals received from GPs and the Wales Fertility Institute, to identify those that had a miscarriage under twenty (20) weeks.

The records identified would then need to be cross referenced with Theatre records to identify the information requested, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB has three (3) EPUs, three (3) A&E departments, five (5) MIU’s and four (4) Acute Hospitals with Operating Theatres, which equates to a minimum of fifteen (15) departments, without the GP and Wales Fertility Institute referrals. Therefore, contacting each of these departments and requesting a search of systems and records, would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the minimum number of departments that would need to be contacted and the subsequent number of staff members within each team, conducting a search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

15 @ 1.5 hours per audit = 22.5 hours  
22.5 hours @ £25 per hour = £562.50

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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, which can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Therefore, in response to question 2, the UHB can confirm that eighty-five (85) surgical management cases were sent for genetic testing, during the five (5) year period covering 14 August 2020 to 14 August 2025.