

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.19667.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Neurophysiology services
<b>Date of Request:</b>	18 February 2026

**Requested:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information regarding peripheral nerve conduction studies (NCS) / routine clinical neurophysiology services within your health board for the most recent complete reporting month.

1. Routine Waiting Times
  - a. Median waiting time (weeks) for routine adult NCS.
  - b. Longest waiting time (weeks) for routine adult NCS.
  - c. 90th/95th percentile wait time (if recorded).
  - d. Total number of patients on the routine NCS waiting list, with counts waiting >6 weeks, >12 weeks, >26 weeks, >52 weeks.
  
2. Urgent Pathway
  - a. Median waiting time (weeks) for urgent adult NCS.
  - b. Longest urgent wait.
  - c. Number awaiting urgent NCS.
  - d. % of referrals classified as urgent and the criteria used.
  
3. Population & Demand
  - a. Adult population served (estimated).
  - b. Total adult NCS referrals in the most recent full year.
  
4. Workforce & Capacity
  - a. WTE clinical neurophysiology consultants.
  - b. WTE clinical neurophysiology physiologists/scientists.
  - c. Average weekly NCS appointment slots.
  
5. Mitigation
  - a. Outsourcing/insourcing usage (Y/N; volumes if yes).
  - b. Referral triage criteria in place.
  - c. Any clinical pathways permitting surgery without NCS in selected cases.

If NCS-specific data is not separately held, please supply equivalent adult clinical neurophysiology data.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with some of the requested information as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding the following details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA:

- The number of patients for question 1d broken down by weeks waiting due to the low number of cases (less than 5)
- The number of patients for question 2c, due to the low number of cases (less than 5)
- The percentage requested for question 2d as it could be used to calculate the number of patients for question 2c.

It is not within the expectation of these individuals that their personal data would be released into the public domain. This information is classed as personal data of a third party. Therefore, it is being withheld in accordance with the exemption set out in section 40(2) of the FoIA, by virtue of section 40(3)(a) of the FoIA, which permits a public authority to withhold personal data other than the requestor's where the disclosure would breach Data Protection principles.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define 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.

1a. The UHB confirms that the median wait time for a routine adult Nerve Conduction Study (NCS) was two and a half (2.5) weeks, as at 28 February 2026.

1b. The longest wait for a routine adult NCS was one (1) week, as at 28 February 2026.

1c. Not recorded.

1d. The UHB confirms that there were one hundred and twenty-nine (129) patients on the routine NCS waiting list, as at 28 February 2026. However, an exemption under Section 40 has been applied to the number of patients waiting over 6 weeks. There are no patients waiting for 12 weeks and over.

2a. The UHB confirms that the median wait time for an urgent adult NCS was one and a half (1.5) weeks, as at 28 February 2026.

2b. The longest wait for an urgent adult NCS was three (3) weeks, as at 28 February 2026.

2c. An exemption under Section 40 of the FoIA has been applied.

2d. An exemption under Section 40 of the FoIA has been applied. However, the UHB provides the referral criteria in response to question 5b.

3a. An exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA has been applied, as the information requested is already in the public domain and is accessible by another means. Population information is available on the Welsh Government (WG) StatsWales website. A link to the website has been provided below.

[Population | StatsWales](#)

3b. The UHB received one thousand, two hundred and twenty-nine (1,229) adult NCS referrals, during the 2025 calendar year.

4a. The UHB does not currently employ a Neurophysiology Consultant. However, the UHB is currently insourcing capacity.

4b. The UHB currently employs 3.00 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Clinical Physiologists. 1.0 WTE Principle Clinical Scientist and 1.0 WTE Scientist Training Programme (STP) student.

4c. The UHB provides an average of thirty-five (35) weekly appointment slots.

5a. The UHB currently insources the provision of Consultant led Electromyography (EMG) clinics, providing three hundred and twenty-nine (329) diagnostic tests, during the period 1 May 2025 to 28 February 2026.

5b. The UHB confirms that it does have referral triage criteria in place, utilising the British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology (BSCN)/Association of Neurophysiological Scientists (ANS) Guidance on appropriate/inappropriate referral for neurophysiological testing. A link to the guidance has been provided below.

[ANS-BSCN referral guidance V2 final 2025 x.pdf](#)

Referrals for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome/Ulnar Neuropathy/Peripheral Neuropathy are triaged by the UHB's Principle Clinical Scientist or Senior Physiologist, with more complex referrals e.g. Motor Neurone Disease (MND) being triaged by a Consultant.

5c. The UHB confirms that it does have clinical pathways permitting surgery without NCS in selected cases, via the All-Wales Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Pathway which was developed by Welsh Government (WG) in 2021. providing a pathway for Primary Care, Musculoskeletal (MSK) assessment service and Secondary Care. A link to the pathway has been provided below.

[all-wales-carpal-tunnel-syndrome-pathway.pdf](#)

However, patients identified with Thenar Muscle Atrophy or Sensory Loss are fast tracked for Orthopaedic assessment.