

Reference:	FOI.19471.26
Subject:	Obesity
Date of Request:	16 February 2026

Requested:

This request relates to local NHS service pressures associated with obesity and obesity-related illness.

Please provide the following information for your Trust, covering the last five financial years (2020/21 - 2024/25)

1. Waiting Times and Access Indicators (Local Service Strain)

For each year listed above, please provide:

a. Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) elective waiting-time indicators, if held:

- Median RTT waiting time (in weeks)
- Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end)
- Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end)

b. The median waiting time for outpatient appointments in the following specialities:

- Endocrinology / Diabetes
- Cardiology
- Orthopaedics

2. Obesity-Related Hospital Admissions and Demand

For each year listed above, please provide:

a. The total number of inpatient admissions where obesity was recorded as:

- A primary diagnosis (ICD-10 code E66), and/or
- A secondary diagnosis

b. The total number of admissions for the following obesity-related conditions (where obesity is a major risk factor), if available:

- Type 2 diabetes (E11)
- Coronary heart disease / myocardial infarction (I20–I25)
- Stroke (I60–I69)

c. If held, the total number of admissions specifically linked to bariatric surgery or specialist weight-management intervention.

Where possible, please provide the data in an Excel or CSV format, broken down by year.

Clarified:

For Question 1, we are seeking the following waiting-time indicators for each of the three listed specialities:

- Endocrinology / Diabetes
- Cardiology
- Orthopaedics

For each specialty, and for each financial year (2019/20 – 2024/25), please provide:

- Median Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) waiting time (in weeks), if held
- Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end)
- Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end)

As noted previously, if RTT is not reported in your jurisdiction, please provide the closest equivalent routinely reported elective waiting-time measures for those specialties.

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 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” 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 the data requested for the 2019/20 financial year, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of Endocrinology/Diabetes, Cardiology and Orthopaedic patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as it is not easily accessible.

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, which 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 further, this is due to the UHB having reached the ceiling of the 18 hour “appropriate limit” to provide the information for the 2020/21 to 2024/25 financial years. To expand this trawl to the 2019/20 financial year would exceed the limit, as a manual trawl of Endocrinology/Diabetes, Cardiology and Orthopaedic patient records would still need to be undertaken to fulfil this part of your request

Additionally, the 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 figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (*) due to the low number of cases (less than 5)
- The information requested for question 2a, broken down by diagnosis type, due to the low number of cases (less than 5)

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.

Aside from the exemptions detailed above, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds within the attached spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.