

Reference:	FOI.20888.26
Subject:	OPCS-4 procedures
Date of Request:	1 July 2026

Requested:

I am seeking information relating to procedures recorded under OPCS-4 code H44.1.

Please provide, for each financial year (or calendar year if more readily available) from 2016 to 2026, the following:

1. The number of H44.1 procedures performed.
2. The total number of bed days associated with patients undergoing H44.1 procedures.
3. The total clinical cost associated with these procedures, where recorded and available.

If possible, please provide the above data:

- *Broken down by sex.
- *Broken down by age group (for example: under 20, 20–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60–69, 70–79, 80+).

I would be grateful if the information could be supplied in CSV format.

Suggested column headings are:

- OPCS4_Code,
- Year,
- Age_Group,
- Sex,
- Number_of_Procedures,
- Bed_Days,
- Clinical_Cost

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 information split by the requested age range due to the low number of cases (less than 5).
- The information split by gender and age range per financial year.
- The information requested for question 2 broken down by financial year, due to the low number of cases (less than 5).
- Additionally, where there is an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to low numbers (less than 5).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

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.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the information it within the attached excel spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.