

Reference:	FOI.20958.26
Subject:	Operating Theatres and Surgical Equipment
Date of Request:	7 July 2026

Requested:

We would be glad to receive answers in this document or as a spreadsheet.

1. Operating theatres: capacity and condition
 - a. As at the most recent date, how many operating theatres does the trust have in use? Please break this down by type: standard, laminar-flow, day-case or procedure, and hybrid (with integrated imaging).
 - b. For each operating theatre, please give the year it was built or last fully refurbished (a full refurbishment includes a new HVAC, that is, heating and ventilation, system).
 - c. Does the trust hold an estate register or list of its operating theatres? If so, please provide it or its key fields.
 - d. What was the average operating-theatre utilisation rate over the most recent twelve months (for example, the percentage of available session time used)?
 - e. How many operating theatres, if any, are currently out of use or operating under restriction, and for what recorded reason?
2. Surgical hubs
 - a. Does the trust operate an elective surgical hub (a unit given over to planned surgery with ring-fenced theatres and staff)? If yes, please give the year it opened and the number of theatres it contains.
 - b. Is any such hub accredited under the GIRFT Elective Hub Accreditation programme?
 - c. Are there approved or planned schemes to create or expand a surgical hub within the next five years? If so, please give a brief description, the number of theatres, and the expected date.
3. Endoscopy and diagnostics
 - a. How many endoscopy procedure rooms does the trust have in use?
 - b. At the most recent date, what is the size of the endoscopy waiting list and the longest wait, if not already published?
 - c. Are there approved or planned schemes to add endoscopy or community diagnostic capacity within the next five years? Please describe briefly, with expected dates.
4. Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD)
 - a. Is the trust's Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) provided in-house or outsourced? If outsourced, to which provider, where recorded?
 - b. In what year was the main CSSD facility built or last significantly refurbished (a significant refurbishment includes replacing essential components such as sterilisers)?
5. Endoscope decontamination
 - a. Is the trust's endoscope decontamination provided in-house or outsourced? If outsourced, to which provider, where recorded?
 - b. In what year was the main endoscope decontamination facility built or last significantly refurbished (a significant refurbishment includes replacing essential components such as AERs, the machines that clean endoscopes)?

- c. In the last three years, has any decontamination or sterilisation facility had unplanned downtime that required temporary or contingency arrangements? If so, please describe briefly.

Response:

- 1a. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within the table below, the number of operating theatres it currently has in use within each of its four (4) Acute Hospital sites, broken down by type.

Hospital	Total Theatres	Laminar Flow	Standard	Obstetric
Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)	6	4	2	0
Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	9	3	4	2
Withybush General Hospital (WGH)	6	3	3	0
Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)	4	4	0	0

- 1b. The UHB provides within the tables below and overleaf, the year each operating theatre was built or refurbished, split by hospital site.

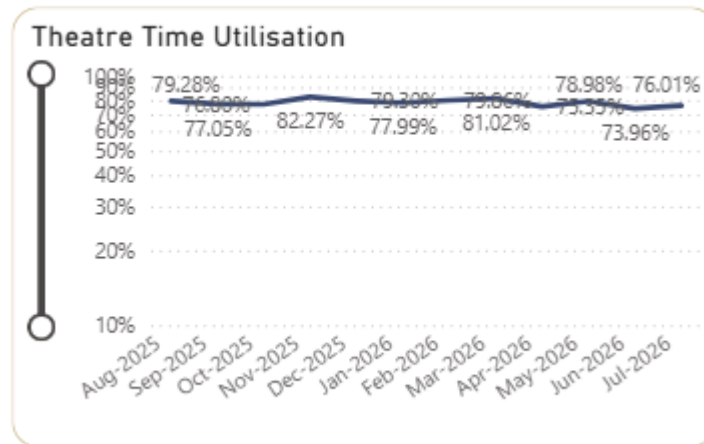
Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)	
Theatre	Year
Theatre 1	Built in 1990
Theatre 2	Built in 1990
Theatre 3 UVC	Built in 1990
Theatre 4 UVC	Built in 2005
Day Surgical Unit (DSU) - Theatre 1	Built in 2022
Day Surgical Unit (DSU) - Theatre 2	Built in 2022
Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	
Theatre	Year
Preseli Theatre	Constructed prior to 1990 – build/refurbishment date unknown
Theatre 1	Refurbished/New Plant in 2004
Theatre 2	Refurbished/New Plant in 2004
Theatre 3	Refurbished/New Plant in 2006
Theatre 4	Refurbished/New Plant in 2006
Theatre 5	Refurbished/New Plant in 2004
Theatre 6	Built and New Plant in 2000
Obstetrics Theatres	Refurbished/New Plant in 2023
Day Theatre	Built and New Plate in 2000
Withybush General Hospital (WGH)	
Theatre	Year
Theatre 1	Built in 2010
Theatre 2	Built in 2010

Theatre 3	Refurbished in 2005
Theatre 4	Refurbishment of the Air Handling Unit (AHU) only in 2005
Day Surgery Theatre 1	Refurbishment in 2000, including AHU (AHU serves both Day Surgery theatres)
Day surgery Theatre 2	
Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)	
Theatre	Year
Main Theatre 1	Major refurbishment in 2015
Main Theatre 2	Major refurbishment in 2015
Day Theatre 1	Built in 2012
Day Theatre 2	Built in 2012
Day Surgery Unit Theatre 3	Constructed prior to 2006

1c. The UHB does hold an estates asset register for each of its four (4) Acute sites, including details of its operating theatres. Each asset register houses information slightly differently; therefore, a list of the key fields has been provided within the table below, broken down by hospital site.

PPH	GGH	WGH	BGH
Unique asset code	Unique asset code	CAFM	Asset Type
Description	Description	Area served	Description
Reference	Reference	Area served block	Reference
Location	Location	Area served floor	Location
Asset group	Asset group	Verification	Asset group
Serial number	Created date	Intake location	Contract
Building	Serial number	Discharge location	Department
Floor	Old plan ref	Date installed	Created date
Area/Department	Building	Commission date	Serial number
Space	Floor		Building
Manufacturer	Area/Department		Floor
Replacement date	Space		Area/Department
Computer Aided Facilities Management (CAFM)	Manufacturer		
Area served	Replacement date		

1d. The UHB provides a screenshot of its theatre time utilisation, during the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026.



1e. The UHB confirms that four (4) of its operating theatres were out of use, as at 7 July 2026. The recorded reasons are:

- Three (3) standard operating theatres at GGH are not in use due to non-compliance with safe fire evacuation requirements.
- One (1) operating theatre at WGH is not in use due to a failed AHU.

2a. The UHB confirms it does not operate an elective surgical hub currently. However, the UHB formed part of Cohort 1 of the Welsh Government Surgical Hub Programme, and an elective surgical hub is in development. The designated surgical hub is based at PPH and currently incorporates both the DSU and Main Theatre facilities. The hub model supports elective activity across General Surgery, Urology and Trauma and Orthopaedics.

2b. The UHB confirms its hubs are progressing through the accreditation process as part of Cohort 1 of the national programme, which is aligned to the Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) principles and standards. The UHB is due to submit evidence in August 2026, with site review activity to follow.

The current accreditation programme is focused on four (4) theatres, comprising of:

- Two (2) theatres within PPH DSU
- Two (2) theatres within PPH Main Theatre Suite

2c. The UHB confirms there are currently no formally approved plans for additional surgical hub sites. However, the UHB is exploring opportunities with Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) to establish regional surgical hubs.

Furthermore, there is ongoing surgical hub programme work, to explore opportunities to maximise and further develop elective capacity at PPH. Details of recent discussions include:

- Optimisation of the PPH DSU as a dedicated elective facility
- Consideration of an enhanced/extended-hours model, including potential overnight capability
- Review of theatre utilisation, workforce requirements and elective capacity
- Assessment of procedure-room facilities to release theatre capacity and support hub development

These proposals remain at development and options-appraisal stage, as a result, no approved expansion schemes, confirmed theatre numbers or implementation dates are held.

3a. The UHB confirms it has seven (7) Endoscopy procedure rooms across all four (4) of its Acute hospital sites.

3b. The UHB confirms there are nine hundred and twenty-two (922) patients currently on the Endoscopy waiting list for diagnosis procedures. Additionally, the UHB provides within the table below, the longest waits, split by Speciality.

Speciality	Wait
Respiratory	3 weeks
Gastroenterology	8 weeks
Urology	37 weeks

3c. In February 2026, the UHB approved the principle of Endoscopy expansion as part of the Clinical Services Plan (CSP). For Endoscopy, this involves the development of a third theatre in PPH and the development of a community hub to expand Endoscopy capacity.

4a. The UHB confirms the Central Sterile Services Department (CSSD) is provided in house.

4b. The UHB provides within the table below, details of when the CSSD's were refurbished.

CSSD Location	Year	Components refurbished
PPH	2021	Endoscope Washers
GGH	2026	New Washers
WGH	2023	New Sterilisers
BGH	2025	New Sterilisers and Washers

5a. The UHB confirms Endoscope decontamination is provided in house.

5b. The UHB provides within the table below, details of when the Endoscope decontamination facilities were refurbished.

CSSD Location	Year	Components refurbished
PPH	2021	Endoscopes Washers
GGH	2015	Endoscopes Washers
WGH	2018	Endoscopes Washers
BGH	2026	Endoscopes Washers

5c. The UHB confirms within the last three (3) years, the PPH Hospital Sterilization and Decontamination Unit (HSDU) closed for the replacement of a Frost Coil. The entire workload was transferred to GGH.