

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.5592.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Ophthalmology appointments
<b>Date of Request:</b>	16 March 2021

**Requested:**

For the following questions, please supply the data broken down by month, for the calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021:

1. Number of ophthalmology outpatient attendances, cancellations and did not attends.
2. The number of referrals made for an ophthalmology specialist appointment.
3. The number of patients waiting 18 weeks or longer for a referral for an ophthalmology specialist appointment.
4. The average waiting time in weeks from referral to treatment for ophthalmology patients.
5. The number of cancelled cataract surgery appointments.
6. The number of regular “check-up” appointments that have been cancelled.
7. The number of AMD treatment appointments that have been cancelled.
8. The number of patients who have had a virtual appointment, either by phone, video conferencing or any other means.
9. If you have categorised patients by risk of vision loss, can you please break down the answers to questions 1-8 by these categories.

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within the tables below, the number of ophthalmology outpatient attendances, cancellations and the not attended, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

<b>2019</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Did not attend</b>	<b>Could not attend</b>	<b>Hospital cancellation</b>
January	4,006	409	629	825
February	3,824	331	620	863
March	3,780	332	612	1,044
April	3,776	370	534	819
May	3,682	312	615	770
June	3,698	329	590	653
July	3,954	370	587	600
August	3,063	305	448	838
September	3,490	322	558	941
October	4,153	356	572	648
November	3,892	421	675	464
December	3,186	401	662	506

2020	Attended	Did not attend	Could not attend	Hospital cancellation
January	3,905	388	660	919
February	3,299	306	579	674
March	2,286	268	805	1,754
April	552	27	319	2,283
May	765	23	147	1,101
June	976	48	116	586
July	1,626	90	193	422
August	1,870	112	211	407
September	2,431	171	386	575
October	2,049	182	353	352
November	2,218	238	352	226
December	1,960	209	417	440

2021	Attended	Did not attend	Could not attend	Hospital cancellation
January	1,620	158	337	814
February	2,003	222	312	414

2. The UHB provides, within the tables below, the number of referrals made for an ophthalmology specialist appointment, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

2019	Number of referrals
January	1,259
February	1,317
March	1,294
April	1,215
May	1,215
June	1,724
July	1,164
August	1,231
September	1,633
October	1,182
November	1,306
December	1,191

2020	Number of referrals
January	1,217
February	1,109
March	1,103
April	213
May	355
June	391
July	625
August	848
September	854
October	910
November	1,094
December	574

2021	Number of referrals
January	1,018
February	894

3. The UHB provides, within the tables below, the number of patients waiting eighteen (18) weeks or longer, for a referral for an ophthalmology specialist appointment, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

2019	Number waiting
January	1,182
February	1,100
March	1,069

2020	Number waiting
January	1,162
February	890
March	917

2021	Number waiting
January	2,470
February	2,627

April	998	April	1,180
May	924	May	1,419
June	840	June	1,962
July	1,126	July	2,544
August	1,381	August	2,577
September	1,437	September	2,398
October	1,648	October	2,357
November	1,495	November	2,283
December	1,507	December	2,351

4. This information is already within the public domain; therefore, Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is accessible by another means. The information requested is available on the Welsh Government website.

For ease of reference please click on the attached link which will take you directly to the StatsWales webpage, containing the requested information:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/Referral-to-Treatment/patientpathwayswaitingtostarttreatment-by-month-groupedweeks-treatmentfunction>

5. The UHB provides, within the tables below, the number of cancelled cataract surgery appointments, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

2019	Number of cancellations
January	57
February	61
March	64
April	47
May	49
June	46
July	42
August	98
September	85
October	59
November	40
December	34

2020	Number of cancellations
January	52
February	56
March	167
April	202
May	17
June	*
July	9
August	22
September	18
October	32
November	32
December	37

2021	Number of cancellations
January	43
February	30

6. The UHB provides, within the tables overleaf, the number of cancelled regular 'check-up' appointments, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

2019	Number of cancellations
January	591
February	623
March	840
April	624
May	618
June	468
July	477
August	655
September	745
October	521
November	364
December	388

2020	Number of cancellations
January	699
February	489
March	1,302
April	1,992
May	998
June	550
July	400
August	372
September	403
October	295
November	190
December	337

2021	Number of cancellations
January	651
February	323

7. The UHB provides, within the tables below, the number of cancelled Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) treatment appointments, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

2019	Number of cancellations
January	38
February	115
March	87
April	79
May	63
June	60
July	78
August	102
September	90
October	79
November	84
December	90

2020	Number of cancellations
January	81
February	70
March	153
April	66
May	30
June	87
July	87
August	107
September	92
October	105
November	97
December	132

2021	Number of cancellations
January	120
February	44

8. The UHB provides, within the tables overleaf, the number of patients that have received a virtual appointment, by month, for the calendar years, 2019, 2020 and January and February 2021.

2019	Number of appointments
January	*
February	24
March	43
April	*
May	*
June	6
July	*
August	*
September	178

2020	Number of appointments
January	*
February	*
March	*
April	15
May	*
June	*
July	7
August	35
September	*

2021	Number of appointments
January	6
February	6

October	8	October	*
November	23	November	132
December	6	December	20

Where the figures in the tables have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.

9. Not applicable.