

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.12604.23
<b>Subject:</b>	Oral cancer
<b>Date of Request:</b>	6 September 2023

**Requested:**

The number of oral cancer referrals received by hospitals in your Trust between January 2017 and the most recent completed month that is available (most likely July or August 2023). I also request this data be presented as monthly figures.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information broken down by month, as requested, due to the low number 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 (FoIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, 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, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of oral cancer referrals received, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System's (WPAS) Cancer Tracking Module, during the 2017 to 2022 calendar years and the period from 1 January to 31 August 2023.

Calendar year	Number
2017	*
2018	*
2019	*
2020	*
2021	*
2022	10
1/1/23 to 31/8/23	9

Additionally, where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is also unable to provide you with the exact number, due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5). The UHB is also withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

Please note:- the data provided above is based on referrals where the sub-site has been populated with 'oral cavity'. The system would not be able to identify any further referrals, where the category in the sub-site has not been populated.