

Reference:	FOI.14878.24
Subject:	Oral cancer
Date of Request:	17 July 2024

Requested:

I would like to request the following data:

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 June 2024). I also request this data be presented as monthly figures.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied a Section 21 exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information requested for the 2017 to 2022 calendar years is already within the public domain and is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered a similar Freedom of Information request, FOI.12604.23 - Oral cancer, and it is available on our disclosure log.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

[Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://nhs.uk/disclosure-log/hywel-dda-university-health-board)

The UHB provides the information that is not covered by the Section 21 exemption overleaf.

However, the 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.

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.

Therefore, the UHB provides within the table below, the number of oral cancer referrals received, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2023 calendar year and the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024.

Period	Number
2023	18
1 January to 30 June 2024	9