

Reference:	FOI.16362.25
Subject:	Orthopaedic services
Date of Request:	14 January 2025

Requested:

1. Please can you provide a copy of your policy/guidelines that confirm Glangwili Orthopaedic Department have a three-week window to operate on broken bones.
2. Can you also confirm the list of upper arm operations that have taken place between the 26th of December and today's date.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold a policy relating to surgery on broken bones. However, the UHB does adhere to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance for the treatment of fractures.

As this information is already in the public domain and accessible by another means, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). The NICE guidance - NG38 Fractures (non-complex): Assessment and Management, recommendation 1.4 ongoing orthopaedic management is available on the NICE website.

For ease of reference, please click on the link provided, which will take you directly to the NICE guidance webpage:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng38>.

2. The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients that had an operation on their upper arm only, due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the 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 can confirm that a total of six (6) operations were performed on upper arms and shoulders, including muscular injuries relating to the upper arm area, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the period from 26 December 2024 to 14 January 2025.