

Reference:	FOI.17778.25
Subject:	Patients removed from waiting
Date of Request:	11 July 2025

Requested:

1. How many patients have died whilst on a treatment waiting list since May 2021? - I would like this broken down by month, please.
2. How many people have dropped off a treatment waiting list as a result of going private since May 2021? - I would like this broken down by month, please.
3. How many people have left a treatment waiting list as a result of moving away from the health board area since May 2021? - I would like this broken down by month, please.

Clarification

Could you please just confirm that, for those listed as being removed due to death, that you have included all patients that died for all reasons?

I want it to include all patients who have died for all reasons, regardless of why they were originally seeking treatment of any and all kinds. The reason I raise this is that I have just realised that my original query could have been interpreted as just asking for those patients waiting for life saving treatment/ only died specifically from the ailment which they were waiting to have treated, which is not the case - I would like them all.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board's (UHB's) Freedom of Information (FOI) team reviewed the data provided in response to your original request and has identified that the data provided in response to question 1 was erroneously interpreted due to the manner in which it was presented. As a result, the information was conveyed incorrectly. Please accept our apologies for this error.

The FOI team has been in liaison with the Information Services team regarding the clarification you provided, and the data in response to question 1 of your request has been re-run. A revised data set in response to question 1 is provided within Attachment 1.

1. The UHB provides within Attachment 1, the revised number of individual patients that were removed from the Referral To Treatment (RTT) waiting list whilst at the activity or referral stage, due to passing away, for any reason, broken down by month, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the period 1 May 2021 to 30 June 2025.

It is important to note that this data relates to patients on waiting lists which are subject to NHS Wales RTT guidelines, and would not include therapies, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities or other treatment waiting lists.

2. The UHB confirms patient outcomes are coded on the WPAS. However, depending on the specific situation, there may be two (2) or more codes which relate to private treatment, namely 'seen at other hospital' or 'NHS Patient seen as Private'. The UHB would not necessarily be advised of patients accessing treatment via the private/independent sector route unless the patient or GP has specifically communicated this outcome to the UHB. In the circumstances

where the UHB has been informed that a patient should be removed from its waiting list due to alternative treatment via the private/independent sector, the UHB utilises a 'seen at other hospital' or 'NHS Patient seen as Private' code when updating WPAS.

However, as there has been no requirements for Health Boards to routinely report incidence of patient treatments via the private/independent sector route, the 'seen at other hospital' recording code is also utilised for patients who may be treated at another NHS hospital or for patients who the UHB has commissioned treatments for via the private/independent sector route. As such, the UHB is unable to provide reliable data on the volume of patients who may elect to access treatment via this route and are subsequently removed from the UHBs waiting list utilising the 'seen at other hospital' code.

Within Attachment 1, the UHB has provided the number of patients who were removed from the treatment waiting list and coded as 'NHS Patient seen as Private', during the period 1 May 2021 to 30 June 2025. This data is deemed to be the most accurate, however, it must be noted that this may include some patients who have undergone treatment at a Private facility due to outsourcing; however, the UHB is unable to identify these. The UHB notes an increase in removals due to treatment within a private facility during the end of 2021 and early into the 2022 calendar years, this is likely due to restricted NHS activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, where the figures within Attachment 1 have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), 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.

3. The UHB does not hold the information requested as this is not recorded on WPAS.