

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.6091.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Procedural volume, staff incidences and waste
<b>Date of Request:</b>	27 May 2021

**Requested:**

1. What was the total number of surgical procedures completed by the Trust, per year, since 2015?
2. How many operating theatres (including day case theatres) does the Trust have for the following specialities?:  
  
Orthopaedics (including arthroplasty and arthroscopy):  
Trauma:  
Urology:  
Gynaecology:
3. What number of Health Care Workers reported an incidence of exposure to blood and body fluids (BBF) in theatre, per year, since 2015?
4. What is the treatment for a Health Care worker with a reported incidence of exposure to BBF?
5. What is the average cost to treat a Health Care worker with a reported incidence of exposure to BBF?
6. What is the number of working days (or hours) lost due to musculoskeletal disorders (MS) injuries by members of staff working in theatres, per year, since 2015?
7. What is the cost of losing these work days (or hours), per year, since 2015?
8. What is your Trusts annual agency spend on theatre staff, by year since 2015?
9. What are the top three reasons for using agency staff in theatres?
10. What is your current policy regarding surgical smoke/plume in theatres?
11. What is the annual spend per annum on Waste Management for the Trust?
12. What volume of clinical waste is produced by the Trust, per year, since 2015?
13. What percentage of clinical waste is produced by theatres?
14. What is the cost £/tonne for disposing of clinical waste?

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table overleaf, the number of procedures undertaken across the UHB, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System, for the calendar years 2015 to 2020 and from the start of 2021 to the date of your request.

Calendar year	Number of procedures
2015	59,491
2016	35,046
2017	43,771
2018	41,708
2019	41,783
2020	19,623
2021 to date	7,388

2. The UHB provides within the table overleaf, the number of theatres across the UHB, for each speciality requested. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic not all services have fully resumed.

Speciality	Number of theatres
Orthopaedics	3 dedicated 5 shared with allocated sessions
Trauma	1 dedicated 2 shared with allocated sessions Additional theatres available if increased capacity required
Urology	6 shared with allocated sessions
Gynaecology	5 shared with allocated sessions

3. The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of Health Care Support Workers (HCSW) that reported an incidence of exposure to Blood and Body Fluids (BBF) within theatres, per year for the years requested, 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.

However, the UHB can confirm that a total of sixteen (16) HCSW have reported an incidence of exposure to BBF, within theatres, from January 2015 to the date of your request.

4. The UHB confirms that all staff are currently wearing full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in theatre and therefore, the mouth is covered at all times. The treatment of a HCSW with a reported incidence of exposure to BBF is dependent on the type of exposure, i.e. splashing to skin, eyes, mouth or sharps injuries etc.

If an incidence regarding splashing to the eyes occurs, they should be bathed as soon as possible, which can potentially be done in the area of incident. The following processes are undertaken:

- Inform line manager and complete an incident report
- If required, attend the Accident and Emergency (A&E) department and/or a referral to Ophthalmology may be necessary.
- Report incident to Occupational Health (OH)

If an incidence regarding a needlestick injury occurs, the following process applies:

- Immediately encourage bleeding
- Wash area under running water, if possible
- Apply a dressing
- Inform line manager and complete an incident report
- If required, attend the A&E department
- Report incident to OH

Any discussions around Post Exposure Prophylaxis will take place with the Consultant Microbiologist.

5. The UHB confirms that the information requested is not held.

6. & 7. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) sickness absence days lost by theatre staff, due to back and other Musculoskeletal (MSK) problems and the estimated costs of the WTE days lost, as recorded on the UHB's Electronic Staff Record (ESR) system, for the calendar years 2015 to 2020.

Calendar year	WTE days lost	Estimated cost
2015	1,707.6	£101,752.00
2016	983.97	£90,912.00
2017	1,046.49	£92,892.00
2018	760.69	£70,951.00
2019	1,391.98	£143,642.00
2020	1,104.01	£95,775.00

Please note, the estimated costs as recorded in ESR, are based on the following calculation: Salary x WTE x Absence days, plus employer's costs (National Insurance and pension contributions).

8. The UHB provides, within the table below, the annual spend on agency theatre staff, for the financial years 2015/16 to 2020/21.

Financial year	Annual spend
2015/16	£134,323.00
2016/17	£501,972.00
2017/18	£293,094.00
2018/19	£324,599.00
2019/20	£520,303.00
2020/21	£420,610.00

9. The UHB confirms that the top three (3) reasons for utilising agency staff within theatres is to cover sickness absence, vacancies and for additional activity, when required.

10. The UHB confirms that the current policy is that smoke extraction is to be used at all times in theatres.

As the information requested for questions 11, 12 and 14 relate to a third party, the UHB considers that Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) applies, as answering would be prejudicial to its commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person; in this case, the service supplier.

Therefore, the UHB has contacted the supplier requesting its views on disclosure of the requested information and has received its consent to the disclosure of the average rates.

11. The UHB confirms that the average spend is £350,414.38 per annum, for all waste types.

12. The UHB confirms that the average volume of waste is 761 tonnes per annum, for all waste types.

13. The UHB confirms that the information requested is not held, as waste data is not recorded at departmental level.

14. The UHB confirms that the average cost per tonne for waste disposal is £442.95, for all types of clinical waste.