

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.17366.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Robotic surgery
<b>Date of Request:</b>	19 May 2025

**Requested:**

1. The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic. For robotic surgeries please can this be further broken down into the type of robot in use for each operation (e.g. include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand).
2. Type and numbers of robot available in your trust and used in emergency general surgery cases (Examples include Da Vinci, Versius, Freehand, Soloassist, Microhand S, AESOP, Zeus).
3. The total numbers of Emergency general surgery operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025 occurring during out of hours (weekends, nights)
4. Number of robotic general surgery cases (both emergency and elective) performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025.
5. Number the following operations performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic (with robotic surgeries further broken down into type of robot used if applicable)
  - Cholecystectomies
  - Laparotomies
  - Laparoscopies
  - Appendectomies
  - Hernia repairs
  - Hartmann’s procedures
  - Adhesiolysis
  - Small bowel resection

An example table is shown here:

	Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic (DaVinci)	Robotic (Versius)
Cholecystectomies				
Laparotomies				
Laparoscopy				
Appendectomies				
Hernia repairs				
Hartmann’s				
Adhesiolysis				
Small bowel resection				

6. Mean length of stay of patients who have undergone the following performed between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Broken down by: Open, laparoscopic and robotic.
  - Cholecystectomies
  - Laparotomies
  - Laparoscopies

- Appendectomies
- Hernia repairs
- Hartmann's procedures
- Adhesiolysis
- Small bowel resection

An example table is shown here:

	Open	Laparoscopic	Robotic (DaVinci)	Robotic (Versius)
Cholecystectomies				
Laparotomies				
Laparoscopy				
Appendectomies				
Hernia repairs				
Hartmann's				
Adhesiolysis				
Small bowel resection				

7. The number and type of complications that occurred in robotic general surgery cases between January 1st 2023-January 1st 2025. Including but not limited to conversions to another type of surgery, device-related complications, injury to surrounding structures or tissue, serums, infection, leakage, hernias, mortality.
8. Number of staff trained to assist with robotic cases.
9. The average (Over 4 weeks) number of staff trained to assist in robotic surgery available out of hours (weekends/nights).

To elaborate emergency general surgery would include robotic assisted operations in any of: Acute surgical diseases of the abdomen, mesenteric ischaemia, appendectomies, cholecystectomies, hernias, bowel obstruction, adhesiolysis, diverticular disease, diverticulitis, incarceration, perforation, peritonitis, and acute conditions of the gastrointestinal tract.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested for question 5, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The Adhesiolysis procedure does not have a specific code as it relates to multiple parts of the body. Therefore, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all surgical patient records, for the requested time period, to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request, as it is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

Additionally, for question 5, the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of cases due to the low number (less than 5). Where the figures in the tables below and overleaf have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, 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. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) 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.

1. The UHB does not utilise surgical robots. However, provided within the table below is the number of emergency general surgery operations undertaken by the other requested surgery types, during the period 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2025.

Type	Number
Laparoscopic	856
Open	7,823
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,679</b>

2. Not applicable.

3. The UHB confirms that a total of one thousand six hundred and sixty (1,660) emergency general surgery operations were undertaken at weekends or overnight (20:00 to 07:59), during the period 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2025.

Please note: four hundred and ninety-five (495) records were identified that had no time recorded.

4. Not applicable.

5. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of operations undertaken, by the procedures requested and surgery type, during the period 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2025.

Procedure	Laparoscopic	Open
Cholecystectomies	777	45
Laparotomies	5	22
Laparoscopy	10	141
Appendectomies	524	121
Hernia repairs	22	1,146

Hartmann's	*	19
Adhesiolysis	Section 12 applied	
Small bowel resection	6	113

6. The UHB provides within the table below, the mean length of stay, in days, of patients who have undergone the requested procedures, by surgery type, during the period 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2025.

<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Laparoscopic</b>	<b>Open</b>
Cholecystectomies	1	2
Laparotomies	0	4
Laparoscopy	0	0
Appendectomies	2	3
Hernia repairs	2	1
Hartmann's	0	7
Small bowel resection	5	11

7. - 9. Not applicable.