

Reference:	FOI.17272.25
Subject:	Scans
Date of Request:	6 May 2025

Requested:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information relating to the number of patients referred for X-Ray and/or MRI scans from your Accident & Emergency (A&E) department, broken down by year, for the past four calendar years (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) up to and including 03 May 2025:

1. The number of patients who presented at A&E and were:
 - a. Referred for X-Ray only
 - b. Referred for MRI scan

 - c. And the reason (symptoms) why they were referred to either or both.

Please include the data in Excel spreadsheet or csv file with column 1 representing number of people referred for X-Ray. Column 2 with number of people referred for MRI scan. Column 3 causes (symptoms) for X-Ray and/or MRI scan referral.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested, 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.

As the information requested for question 1c is not collated and recorded centrally, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Radiology patient records for the periods requested, to identify any information that may fulfil this part of your request.

The UHB can confirm that sixteen thousand, seven hundred and six (16,706) referrals for scans were made by the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments during the period 1 January to 3 May 2025 alone. Therefore, to provide you with the exact information for this period alone, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

16,706 @ 15 minutes per item = 4,176.5 hours
4,176.5 hours @ £25 per hour = £104,412.50

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 for questions 1a and b within the spreadsheet as requested, at Attachment 1.