

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.8230.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Thrombectomy service for stroke patients
<b>Date of Request:</b>	14 February 2022

**Requested:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act can I request the following information please?

1. Does your health board provide a thrombectomy service for stroke patients?
2. If yes, are the services 24 hours a day 7 days a week?
3. What are the operating hours for the service and what is the procedure when the services are unavailable?
4. How many stroke patients have been able to have a thrombectomy in each of the following financial years?

2018-19  
2019-20  
2020-21  
2021-to date 2022

5. How many patients have been transferred to an English Health Trust for a thrombectomy in each of the following financial years?

2018-19  
2019-20  
2020-21  
2021- to date 2022

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does not provide a Thrombectomy Service for stroke patients.
2. Not applicable.
3. The UHB confirms that it has a commissioned service with Severn Stroke Thrombectomy service (North Bristol) which provides a 7 day service 8am to 8pm. They are looking to increase the service to a 24/7 service later this year.
4. The UHB is unable to provide you with the information requested broken down by the financial years from 2018/19 to 2021/22 to date, due to the low number 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 (FoIA).

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 define 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, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance.

Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the number of stroke patients that have received a thrombectomy, by the financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21 and also 2021 to 28 February 2022.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number</b>
2018/19 to 2020/21	9
2021 to 28/2/22	6

5. The UHB confirms that all the patients identified in question 4 were transferred to Severn Stroke Thrombectomy Service in North Bristol, England, during the financial years detailed above.