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| Reference: | FOI.13950.24 |
| Subject: | Total knee replacements |
| Date of Request: | 5 March 2024 |

Requested:

1. Between March 2021 and February 2024, how many Total Knee Replacement Operations were carried out in the Hywel Dda Trust?
 2. During the same period, how many total knee replacement operations were cancelled in the Hywel Dda Trust?
 3. During the same period, how many people were outsourced for total knee operations?
 4. During the same period, how many total Knee Operations were performed by Mr. Robert Yates Orthopaedic consultant?
- Can I also have the demographic summary for questions 1, 2 and 3? I am particularly interested in age range, gender, length of waiting time, and a BMI over 30.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of 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.

In order to provide you with a patient’s Body Mass Index (BMI), the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Orthopaedic patient records for patients that required and received knee replacements, for the period requested, to identify any information to fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally. However, the UHB can confirm that five hundred and fifty-six (556) knee replacement operations were undertaken during the period 1 March 2021 to 29 February 2024.

Therefore, to provide you with the exact information being requested, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

556 @ 15 minutes per item = 139 hours
 139 hours @ £25 per hour = £3,475.00

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 overleaf.

Nevertheless, the UHB is unable to provide you with some of the requested information as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding the following details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA:

- Where the figures in the table for questions 1 and 3 have been replaced with an asterisk (*), due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5)
- The information broken down as requested for question 2, due to the low number of cases (5 and under)
- The total for question 3, which could be used to calculate the redacted figure has been replaced with a double asterisk (**).

The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the 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.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of total knee replacement procedures undertaken, by age range, gender and weeks waiting, during the period from 1 March 2021 to 29 February 2024.

| Weeks waiting | Age range and gender | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | 46 to 55 | | 56 to 65 | | 66 to 75 | | 76 to 85 | | 86 to 95 | |
| | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male |
| 0 to 12 | * | * | 7 | * | 10 | 8 | 9 | * | * | * |
| 13 to 25 | * | 0 | * | 6 | 8 | * | 6 | * | 0 | 0 |
| 26 to 38 | * | 0 | * | 7 | * | * | * | 7 | * | 0 |
| 39 to 51 | * | * | * | * | 6 | * | 9 | 7 | 0 | * |
| 52 to 64 | 0 | * | * | * | * | * | 9 | * | * | 0 |
| 65 to 77 | * | 0 | 8 | * | 7 | * | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 78 to 90 | * | * | * | * | 8 | 11 | 6 | 6 | * | * |
| 91 to 103 | * | 0 | 10 | * | 6 | 7 | 6 | * | * | 0 |
| 104 to 116 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 11 | * | * | * | 0 | 0 |
| 117 to 129 | 0 | * | * | * | 7 | * | * | * | 0 | * |
| 130 to 142 | * | * | * | * | 9 | 9 | 6 | * | 0 | 0 |
| 143 + | * | * | 17 | 17 | 38 | 28 | 22 | 21 | * | * |
| Total | 15 | 9 | 71 | 67 | 118 | 91 | 92 | 76 | 7 | 10 |

Please note:- emergency admissions are included in the 0 to 12 weeks waiting data.

2. The UHB confirms that six (6) total knee replacement procedures were cancelled, during the period from 1 March 2021 to 29 February 2024.

3. The UHB does not hold the waiting times for the procedures outsourced on its WPAS system. However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of total knee replacement procedures outsourced, by age range and gender, during the period from 1 March 2021 to 29 February 2024.

| Number outsourced | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Age range | Female | Male |
| 46 to 55 | * | * |
| 56 to 65 | 9 | 6 |
| 66 to 75 | 16 | 16 |
| 76 to 85 | * | 7 |
| 86 to 95 | * | 0 |
| Total | 32 | ** |

4. The UHB confirms that thirty (30) total knee replacement procedures were undertaken by Mr Robert Yate, Consultant, during the period from 1 March 2021 to 29 February 2024.