

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.18170.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Urology service
<b>Date of Request:</b>	20 August 2025

**Requested:**

1. Activity / Case Volumes

The number of urology procedures performed in each of the last three financial years, broken down into:

- a. Diagnostic procedures (e.g. cystoscopies, biopsies).
- b. Therapeutic procedures (e.g. TURBT, prostate surgery, stone management, ureteroscopy).

2. Waiting Times

- a. The current average waiting time for urology diagnostic procedures.
- b. The current average waiting time for urology therapeutic procedures.
- c. The number of patients currently waiting for a urology procedure (diagnostic vs therapeutic if available).

3. Budgets

The annual budget allocated to urology services for each of the last three financial years.

4. KPIs

- a. Any key performance indicators (KPIs) currently used to measure the performance of urology services (e.g. RTT targets, diagnostic waiting time targets).
- b. Current performance against those KPIs.

**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.

In order to provide you with the requested information by procedure type for questions 1 and 2c, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of Urology patient records, to identify if the procedure was/is diagnostic or therapeutic, as it is not recorded centrally.

The UHB can confirm that there are two thousand, four hundred and five (2,405) Urology patients currently awaiting a Urology procedure. It is estimated that a manual search of these records, to identify the information requested for question 2c alone would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search of digital records taking a minimum of five (5) minutes per digital record, would far exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

2,405 @ 5 minutes per item = 200 hours

200 hours @ £25 per hour = £5,000.00

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the 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, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

Unfortunately, the UHB is unable to provide advice on how you can refine your request for questions 1 and 2c further. This is due to the UHB still requiring a manual trawl of patient records to be undertaken to identify any of the information requested.

1. An exemption under Section 12 has been applied. However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB provides within the table below, the number of Urology procedures undertaken during the 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial years.

Financial year	Number
2022/23	6,700
2023/24	8,313
2024/25	8,050

2a. The UHB provides within the table below, the approximate waiting times for Urology diagnostic procedures, as at 31 July 2025.

Diagnostic procedure	Wait time
Urgent Suspected Cancer Flexi Cystoscopy	1-2 weeks
Urgent/Routine Flexi Cystoscopy	9-10 weeks
Local Anaesthetic Transperineal Prostate (LATP) biopsy	4 weeks

2b. The UHB provides within the table below, the approximate waiting times for Urology therapeutic procedures, as at 31 July 2025.

Therapeutic procedure	Wait time
Transurethral Resection of Bladder Tumour (TURBT)/ Rigid Cystoscopy	6-8 weeks
Stone management	26 weeks
Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL)	4-8 weeks

Please note:- the wait time for TURBT/ Rigid Cystoscopy is reliant on pre-assessment and theatre capacity.

2c. An exemption under Section 12 has been applied. However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB can confirm that two thousand, four hundred and five (2,405) patients were waiting for a Urology procedure, as at 31 July 2025. Of those, two hundred and sixty-one (261) are Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) patients.

3. The UHB provides within the table overleaf, the Urology budget, for the 2022/23 to 2024/25 financial years.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Budget</b>
2022/23	£3,217,576.00
2023/24	£3,392,981.00
2024/25	£3,993,122.00

4a. The UHB provides below, the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) currently used to measure the performance of its Urology services.

- No patients waiting more than fifty-two (52) weeks for a first outpatient appointment (OPA).
- No patients waiting more than one hundred and four (104) weeks for a procedure.
- Diagnostic target of eight (8) weeks.

4b. The UHB provides below, the current performance against the KPIs.

- Fully achieving the OPA target. No patients are waiting fifty-two (52) weeks or over.
- Fully achieving procedure target. No patients are waiting one hundred and four (104) weeks or over.
- All USC diagnostics are under the eight (8) week target. However, thirty-eight (38) routine patients have been waiting over the eight (8) week Flexible Cystoscopy target and seventeen (17) patients have been waiting more than 8 weeks for Urodynamics tests.