

|                         |                                             |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reference:</b>       | FOI.21117.26                                |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | Wearable Cardioverter Defibrillators (WCDs) |
| <b>Date of Request:</b> | 23 July 2026                                |

**Requested:**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your Trust/Health Board's provision and funding of wearable cardioverter defibrillators (WCDs).

For reference: [Wearable cardioverter defibrillators - Health Technology Wales](#)

Scope and definitions: This request concerns wearable cardioverter defibrillators (WCDs) only — external, non-implanted defibrillator garments worn temporarily by patients at risk of sudden cardiac death, such as, but not limited to, the ZOLL LifeVest. It does not concern, and we are not requesting information about, any implanted cardiac rhythm management device, including implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), subcutaneous ICDs (S-ICDs), cardiac resynchronisation therapy defibrillators (CRT-D), CRT pacemakers (CRT-P), conventional pacemakers, or leadless pacemakers. Where a question below refers to a "defibrillator" or "device", it should be read as referring solely to the wearable, external WCD described here.

1. Does your Trust/Health Board currently provide, prescribe, fit, or fund wearable cardioverter defibrillators (WCDs) — external, non-implanted defibrillator garments such as, but not limited to, the ZOLL LifeVest, worn by patients at risk of sudden cardiac death? This question excludes all implanted devices (ICDs, S-ICDs, CRT-D, CRT-P and pacemakers). If yes, please state which WCD product(s) or manufacturer(s) are in use.
2. Through which payment mechanism is the cost of WCD provision funded or recovered by the Trust/Health Board? Specifically, is the WCD reimbursed as a high cost tariff-excluded device (i.e. listed in Annex A, tab 12a of the NHS Payment Scheme and reimbursed separately from the national price), funded within the relevant national price / HRG tariff, or funded under a local price or locally agreed arrangement / business case?
3. Where WCD provision is funded as an excluded or pass-through device, please confirm the responsible commissioner and supply route — that is, whether it is commissioned by NHS Wales specialised commissioning via the High Cost Tariff-Excluded Devices (HCTED) / Specialised Service Devices programme (SSDP) and procured through NHS Supply Chain, or funded by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) under a local high cost device arrangement.
4. Does WCD provision require prior approval or funding authorisation before supply — for example via a Blueteq form, an Individual Funding Request, or a specialised commissioning prior-approval process — and if so, which body or committee grants that approval?
5. For the most recent full financial year for which data are held, how many patients were supplied with, or commenced on, a WCD funded by your Trust/Health Board? Please state the financial year to which the figure relates.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold the requested information.

Requests for WCDs are considered by the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC). We therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information (FOI) team in the NWJCC, who may be able to assist with your FOI request. Their contact details are as follows:

[NWJCC.Governance@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:NWJCC.Governance@wales.nhs.uk) or alternatively, you can contact: NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee, Freedom of Information Request, Corporate Governance, Unit G1, The Willowford, Main Avenue, Treforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, CF37 5YL

Additionally, the Tertiary Cardiac Centre in Morriston Hospital, Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) manages complex heart rhythm management and device therapies. You may wish to redirect your request to the Freedom of Information Team at SBUHB who may be able to assist you further with your request for information. Their contact details are as follows:

[FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk) or alternatively, you can contact: FOIA Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Health Board Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.