

Reference:	FOI.9447.22
Subject:	Weight management services
Date of Request:	21 July 2022

Requested:

- 1a. The number of primary bariatric surgery operations* performed by financial year, from 2017/18 to 2021/22
*(*including operations in private hospitals where these were used to provide additional capacity for the NHS)*
- 1b. The mean average wait from admission to Tier 4 services to surgery, by financial year, from 2017/18 to 2021/22.
2. How many patients are on your bariatric surgery RTT (referral to treatment) waiting list at present? and at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- 3a. The number of people enrolled within your Tier 3 weight management services: at present, and at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.
- 3b. The number of people enrolled within your Tier 4 services: at present, and at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.

Response:

1. & 2. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does not have a Tier 4 Weight Management Service (WMS). UHB patients would be referred to the Tier 4 Service provided by Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB).

We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team in SBUHB, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. The contact details are as follows:-

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.

- 3a. The 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 and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Tier 3 WMS patient records, to identify the numbers that enrolled, as the information is not recorded centrally.

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, 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 FoIA and can provide estimated numbers of people that enrolled in Tier 3 WMS during the periods requested below.

The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the estimated number of people enrolled within its Tier 3 WMS, during the financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22 and from 1 January 2022 to 12 August 2022.

Financial year	Estimated number
2017/18	149
2018/19	168
2019/20	378
2020/21	355
2021/22	460
2022/23 to 12/8/22	334

3b. Please see response to question 1.