

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 12th April 2021  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-C-021

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✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

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Corporate Services  
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Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

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I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Your request sought information relating to MRI examinations.

**1. For the calendar year of 2019, please could you tell me how many individual MRI examinations were performed overall?**

22,376 individual MRI scans were performed in calendar year 2019

**2. For the calendar year of 2019, please could you give a breakdown of the individual MRI examinations performed into body part/area? For instance, how many brain scans, spine scans etc. I am happy with whichever body part description is input in the PACS system.**

Please find attached a breakdown by body part.

Where fewer than 5 (<5) has been indicated in the attachment, we are unable to provide you with the exact number of patients as due to the low numbers, there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.



**3. As of March 1st, 2021, how many MRI requests are on the waiting list waiting to be scanned? Please could I have this broken down into individual body part/examination too (like in question 2)?**

As on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, there were 1340 patients on the MRI waiting list. Due to the way this information is recorded, we are not able to provide this broken down by body part.

**4. How much money was paid to private companies during the calendar year 2019 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies staffing hospital scanners to scan NHS patients?**

We only outsource MRI scanning where absolutely necessary, due to the demand on our Radiology services exceeding our capacity. Outsourcing is considered as a last resort to ensure safe, prompt diagnoses and treatment for our patients.

£287,650.00 was paid during calendar year 2019 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies.

**5. From question 4 which companies were used and how many patients were scanned?**

InHealth Ltd was the company used and 2449 patients were scanned.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk).

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk).

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



On behalf of

Pam Wenger  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

