

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/342**  
**Surgical Procedures**

**Request details**

**1. What is the average gross costs including overheads per hour of theatre time?**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board do not hold this information. Under our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance I would like to inform you of the following:

The cost is £1277 per hour. This is based on the following information:

- Supporting information is that the latest published figures relate to 2018/19. This figure only includes theatre costs for those patients who were admitted and a theatre time in minutes is recorded for them. This does not include any theatre costs for those who attended as an outpatient for a procedure. The costs included are Theatre & Anaesthetic medical staffing and operating theatre costs. The theatre time is based on times recorded on theatre system.
- As overheads relate to the patient's stay, these are not included.

**2. What was the total number of surgical procedures completed by the Trust, per year, since 2015?**

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
59,726	53,465	53,147	55,309	60,210	281857

**3. How many arthroscopic surgical procedures were performed by the Trust, per year, since 2015?**

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
968	921	983	975	827	4674

**4. How many Trauma surgical procedures were performed by the Trust, per year, since 2015?**

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
11,946	12,049	11,629	11,590	11,913	59,127

**5. How many Urology surgical procedures were performed by the Trust, per year, since 2015?**

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
9,841	7,073	5,109	5,085	5,286	32,394

**6. How many Gynaecology surgical procedures were performed by the Trust, per year, since 2015?**

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
4,634	4,167	3,127	2,688	2,903	17,519

**7. How many operating theatres (including day case theatres) does the Trust have for the following specialities?:**

- a. Orthopaedics (including arthroplasty and arthroscopy): Pre-Covid 8
- b. Trauma: 2
- c. Urology: 2
- d. Gynaecology: 2

**8. What number of Health Care Workers reported an incidence of exposure to blood and body fluids (BBF) in theatre, per year, since 2015?**

2015 – Sharps - 34	Blood & Bodily Fluids – 5
2016 – Sharps – 28	Blood & Bodily Fluids – 8
2017 – Sharps – 34	Blood & Bodily Fluids – 9
2018 – Sharps – 33	Blood & Bodily Fluids – 9
2019 – Sharps – 45	Blood & Bodily Fluids – 6
2020 (until end of September) Sharps – 18	Blood & Bodily Fluids – 0

**9. What is the treatment for a Health Care worker with a reported incidence of exposure to BBF?**

This information can be found via the following link:

<https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/staff-information/your-health-and-wellbeing/occupational-health-service/sharps-injury-advice/>

**10. What is the average cost to treat a Health Care worker with a reported incidence of exposure to BBF?**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) do not hold this information.

**11. What is the number of working days (or hours) lost due to musculoskeletal disorders (MS) injuries by members of staff working in theatres, per year, since 2015?**

Absence (and availability) is recorded in ESR in calendar days, not working days.

For clinical staff within Theatres, the absence attributed to 'S11 back Problems' or 'S12 Other Musculoskeletal Problems' is as follows: -

	<b>Whole-Time Equivalent Calendar Days Lost</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
<b>2015</b>	3075.32	£257,586
<b>2016</b>	2409.71	£259,663
<b>2017</b>	2806.24	£270,644
<b>2018</b>	2520.31	£254,300
<b>2019</b>	2644.91	£232,576
<b>2020 (Jan-Jul)</b>	1151.89	£76,360

Please note that 'Estimated Cost' represents only the salary paid to the staff absent through sickness and does not include any replacement costs.

**12. What is the cost of losing these work days (or hours), per year, since 2015?**

Please see above.

**13. What is your Trusts annual agency spend on theatre staff, by year since 2015?**

Not applicable, the UHB does not use agency staff in Theatres.

**14. What are the top three reasons for using agency staff in theatres?**

Not applicable, the UHB does not use agency staff in Theatres.

**15. What is your current policy regarding surgical smoke/plume in theatres?**

The UHB do not have a formal policy regarding surgical smoke plume in theatres. The air is extracted and filtered via the ventilation systems in theatre.

**16. Do you have a Waste Management Officer and if so, who are they and how can they be contacted?**

After considering your request, the UHB believes that the data requested is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

To comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance, please note that any contact can be made by emailing;

[estates.admin.cav@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:estates.admin.cav@wales.nhs.uk)

## **17. What is the annual spend per annum on Waste Management for the Trust?**

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or
- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the company in question. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

**Against disclosure:** There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with agencies. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. It has been established above that releasing the information under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

**Decision:** The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

**18. What volume of clinical waste is produced by the Trust, per year, since 2015?**

Field	Units	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
High Temperature Disposal Waste Weight	Tonnes	362.31	372.211	363.202	398.83	399.24
Non Burn Treatment (Alternative Treatment Plant) Disposal Waste Weight	Tonnes	896.28	942.93	966.84	887.12	855.24043
Non-infectious Offensive Waste Weight	Tonnes	654.64	690.89	685.1	664.66	600.796

**19. What percentage of clinical waste is produced by theatres?**

The UHB do not hold this information.

**20. What is the cost £/tonne for disposing of clinical waste?**

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or
- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the company in question. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB

is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

**Against disclosure:** There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with agencies. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. It has been established above that releasing the information under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

**Decision:** The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.