

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/205**  
**Orthopedic Management of Knee Cartilage Damage**

**Request Details**

I am conducting a research project exploring the management of patients with Knee Cartilage Damage and as such I would welcome your assistance to obtain the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- 1      How many patients with Knee Cartilage Damage are referred to your trust for investigation / diagnosis?**
  
- 2      How are these patients with Knee Cartilage Damage diagnosed?  
MRI – how many?  
Arthroscopy – how many?  
Other method – how many?**
  
- 3      How many are diagnosed with ICRS grade 1 cartilage damage?**
  
- 4      How are patients ICRS grade 1 managed post diagnosis?  
Debridement – how many?  
Lavage – how many?  
Other treatment in secondary care (which)?  
Referred back to primary care (which)?**
  
- 5      Average length of time between diagnosis and treatment of patients with ICRS grade 1 lesions?**
  
- 6      Estimated percentage of patients treated with grade 1 lesions who would return for further treatment in the future?**
  
- 7      Do you currently use any scaffold or materials-based techniques to treat ICRS grade 1 patients?**

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual patient records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18

hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.