



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Caerdydd a'r Fro  
Cardiff and Vale  
University Health Board

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/21/530**  
**X-ray Incidents**

**Information Requested:**

I write regarding a Freedom of Information request on instruments unaccounted for following a surgical procedure and would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

1. The number of reported incidents of instruments unaccounted for following a surgical procedure, broken down by hospital in your Local Health Board area in the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21, along with monthly figures up to November 2021;

1 in July 2020 in University Hospital of Wales

2. Out of these reported incidents, how many patients were x-rayed to determine if the instrument had been inadvertently retained in the patient broken down by hospital in the years and months above;

After considering your request, the UHB believes that as the data requested is in relation to a single incident, it 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.

3. In each instance where an X-ray was undertaken which confirmed the instrument was inadvertently retained within the patient, can you confirm that a Duty of Candour had been evidenced by documenting the reason for X-ray within the patient record;

Please see response to question 2.

4. A list of the root causes of these incidents

Please see response to question 2.

