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

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/22/010
MRI Information

Information Requested:

- 1. For the calendar year of 2021, please could you tell me how many individual MRI examinations were performed overall?**

Total MRI examinations in 2021 calendar year = 25,084

- 2. For the calendar year of 2021, 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 see the attached spreadsheet.

- 3. As of the start of 2022, what would the waiting time be (in weeks) for a routine MRI scan (for example how long would a patient have to wait if they were referred for a routine MRI scan of their knee)?**

As at 31/12/2021, the waiting times for a routine MRI scan were as follows:

BODY	8 weeks
BREAST	8 weeks
CARDIAC	18 weeks
NEURO	8 weeks
ORTHO	12 weeks
PAEDS BODY	9 weeks
PAEDS CARDIAC	8 weeks
PAEDS NEURO	15 weeks
PAEDS ORTHO	15 weeks
VASCULAR	8 weeks

- 4. How much money was paid to private companies during the calendar year 2021 for the outsourcing of MRI either to mobile MRI units, private hospitals or private companies staffing hospital scanners to scan NHS patients?**





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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 both Cardiff University and the UHB. 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.

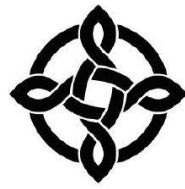
Against disclosure: It has been established that releasing the information sought under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with suppliers. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in suppliers 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.

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

Please see above.





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6. How many MRI scanners does the Trust own?

The Health Board owns 5 MRI scanners.

7. From question 6 could I please have the manufacturer, model, and date of install of the MRI scanners?

- GE Signa Premier 3T Installed March 2020
- GE Signa Artist 1.5T Installed March 2020
- GE Signa Artist 1.5T Installed June 2020
- GE Signa HDX 1.5T Installed March 2006
- Siemens Magnetom Aera 1.5T Installed March 2015

