

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/031
Diagnostic Ultrasound Systems

Information Requested:

1. How many diagnostic ultrasound systems are used within the Trust?
 - I. Name of the Manufacturer and Model of these systems?
 - II. Which hospital are these based within and which department uses each of these systems?
 - III. Who is the responsible person for each ultrasound system?
 - IV. When were these systems purchased?
 - V. When are these systems due for renewal / replacement?

Response Details:

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 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 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') 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.

The UHB is a large organisation with multiple ultrasound services that work independently, and there is no local asset register due to the independent nature of service management. Nevertheless, in line with a public authority's duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the Act, the UHB can provide you with the following information related to ultrasound machines at University Hospital Llandough:

There are currently 13 ultrasound machines.

- 12 machines are manufactured by Canon: 3 in the Antenatal Clinic; 4 in the General Radiology Department; 3 in the Breast Clinic; 1 in the Cardiff and Vale Orthopaedic Centre; and 1 in the Gynaecology Outpatients Clinic.
- 1 machine (BK Spectro model) is manufactured by GE and used in General Radiology Department.

6 machines are i700 V6 Prism models, 1 machine is an a550 model, 1 machine is a BK Spectro model.

12 of these machines were purchased in November and December 2023, and 1 machine in was purchased spring 2023. Machines would not be replaced for at least 5 years as a minimum.