

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/397**  
**Surgical Robots**

**1. Are surgical robots used in your board?**

Yes.

**2. Are you currently planning to purchase a surgical robot(s) in the next 18 months?**

There are no confirmed plans to purchase further surgical robots in the next 18 months.

**3. Please list the manufacturer and model of all surgical robot(s) used in your board? Please include duplicates if multiple surgical robots of same manufacturer/model.**

- Intuitive DaVinci Robot
- CMR Versius Robot x 2

**4. What date was the surgical robot(s) purchased?**

DaVinci purchased August 2014.

**5. Are surgical robot simulators used in your board?**

Yes.

**6. Please list the manufacturer and model of all surgical robot simulator(s) used in your board? Please include duplicates if multiple surgical robot simulators of same manufacturer/model.**

- CMR Versius Curator EX2620-3D x 2 leased
- Intuitive DA VINCI SM3000

**7. What date was the surgical robot simulator(s) purchased?**

DaVinci, 2014.

**8. How many procedures were carried out with use of a surgical robot each year from 2019 to present? Please provide a breakdown by speciality.**

Please see the table below.

Specialty	Year	Number of elective procedures
Colorectal Surgery	2019	1

	2020	0
	2021	0
	2022	30
	2023	61
	2024	22
Gynaecology (Oncology)	2019	0
	2020	0
	2021	0
	2022	12
	2023	76
	2024	38
Neurosurgery	2019	4
	2020	1
	2021	0
	2022	4
	2023	3
	2024	4
Otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery)	2019	1
	2020	18
	2021	31
	2022	30
	2023	43
	2024	21
Upper GI (including Oesophagogastric, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary) Surgery	2019	0
	2020	0
	2021	0
	2022	0
	2023	33
	2024	23
Urology	2019	295
	2020	274
	2021	250
	2022	290
	2023	302
	2024	152

**9. How many emergency procedures were carried out with use of a surgical robot each year from 2019 to present? Please provide a breakdown by speciality.**

There have been no emergency robotic procedures in this time.

**10. How many consultant surgeons work within your board, and how many of these perform robotic surgery? Please provide a breakdown by speciality.**

Specialty	Number of consultant surgeons performing robotic surgery	Total number of consultant surgeons
Colorectal Surgery	4	10
Gynaecology	4	19
Neurosurgery	1	12
Otolaryngology (Ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery)	2	10
Upper GI (including Oesophagogastric, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary) Surgery	2	9
Urology	2	9

**11. How much did the board pay to purchase the surgical robot(s)? If multiple surgical robots, please specify price of each robot.**

After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('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 the supplier 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 is not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

### 12. How much has been spent on consumables/disposables for the surgical robot(s) annually from 2019 to present? If multiple manufacturers, please provide a breakdown by manufacturer.

Year	Total Value (£)
2019	609,438.00
2020	501,891.10
2021	367,123.50
2022	520,687.50
2023	339,047.32
2024	203,610.00
<b>Grand Total (£)</b>	<b>2,541,797.42</b>

### 13. What is the total cost of maintenance for the robot(s) annually from 2019 to present? If multiple manufacturers, please provide a breakdown by manufacturer.

The UHB believes the exemption as outlined in section 43 of the 2000 Act to apply here and is therefore withholding this detail.