

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_327_20

You asked:

Freedom of Information Request relating to full or partial knee replacement surgery and associated waiting lists in Cwm Taf Health Board area.

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000;

For the Cwm Taf Health Board area, for each of the last 3 years for which figures are available

1. Number of patients diagnosed as needing partial or full knee replacement surgery

We only monitor waiting times by specialty, not individual operation types, therefore we are unable to provide.

2. Number of patients who have undergone full or partial knee replacement surgery

Please see provided in the table below the number of replacement surgery procedures for the last 3 years:

Total and Partial Knee Replacement Procedures: 2017/18 - 2019/20			
Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Total Knee Replacements	344	356	191
Partial Knee replacements	42	63	29

3. Number of patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area, (outside of the UK), for full or partial knee replacement surgery

I can confirm that the Health Board does hold this information. However, to release the specific information in the way that you have requested would mean disclosure of low numbers.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain.

In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as 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.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, I can confirm that in the last three years, there has been less than 5 patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area, (outside of the UK), for full or partial knee replacement surgery.

4. Number of patients who have sought prior approval for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania

Please see response to question 3.

5. Number of patients approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility elsewhere in the European Economic Area (outside of the UK)

Please see response to question 3.

6. Number of patients who have been approved for full or partial knee replacement surgery at a facility known as 'Nordorthopaedics', Lithuania

Please see response to question 3.

7. Average waiting time for full or partial knee surgery

Please see response to question 1.