

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_445_22

You asked:

This is an information request relating to MRIs for overweight patients.

Please include the information for each of the following financial years; 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22:

- The number of patients within the remit of the Health Board who have had to be sent to an external, or alternative MRI machine due to being overweight
- The annual cost of using these alternative or external MRIs
- Where the MRIs are (for example, at specialist hospitals)

Our response:

In recent years, the health board has invested in new MRI equipment and as a result very few patients are having to be referred externally to the health board due to their habitus. This is because new MRI machines are larger bores which can accommodate larger patients.

Year	Number of referrals
18/19	Reason for referral not recorded
19/20	Reason for referral not recorded
20/21	Reason for referral not recorded
21/22	0
22 - present	Less than 5*

For the open MRI requests authorised from 1st April 2022 to the present time, the total cost is less than £1500. The health board is committed to ensuring patients access services as close to home as is possible. Therefore the nearest Open MRI scanning facility for patients living in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg catchment area is at the European Scanning Centre in Cardiff.

*The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

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. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data 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 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.