

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 22-150	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
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**1. A monthly breakdown of the total number of MRI scans that Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patients have had at Royal Gwent Hospital for the following years:**

**1 January 2018-31st December 2018**  
**1 January 2019-31st December 2019**  
**1 January 2020-31st December 2020**  
**1 January 2021-31st December 2021**

**Please also provide the total number of MRI scans for January, February, and March 2022.**

**Please could you provide the information in the form of a spreadsheet with the correct monthly breakdown.**

The Health Board does not record this information centrally, therefore a review of every Multiple Sclerosis (MS) patient record would need to be undertaken in order to determine this. Therefore, in order to comply with your request, the Health Board has established that this would exceed the appropriate costs limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which is currently £450. As you will be aware this is not an exemption which requires us to consider the application of the public interest test. We have calculated that it would take in excess of 18 hours to review the record of each patient.

**2. A monthly breakdown of the total number of face-to-face appointments MS patients have had with specialist MS nurses at Royal Gwent Hospital for the following years:**

**1 January 2018-31st December 2018**  
**1 January 2019-31 December 2019**  
**1 January 2020-31 December 2020**  
**1 January 2021-31st December 2021**

**Please also provide the total number of appointments for January, February and March 2022.**

Please see the attached spreadsheet as requested. Where less than five (5) patients have been identified, Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied as the Health Board cannot provide the exact numbers due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less). The Health Board believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified, when considered with other information already available within

the public domain, if this was disclosed. Therefore, 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 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.

**Please could you provide the information in the form of a spreadsheet with the correct monthly breakdown.**

Date	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
01.01.18-31.12.18	28	35	25	26	29	28	23	27	27	31	29	23
01.01.19-31.12.19	20	26	14	30	21	28	28	25	23	26	27	11
01.01.20-31.12.20	13	22	7	CANCELLED DUE TO PANDEMIC								
01.01.21-31.12.21	CANCELLED DUE TO PANDEMIC											

Date	JAN	FEB	MAR
January, February and March 2022	<5	<5	13

**3. A monthly breakdown of the total number of neurology appointments that took place at Royal Gwent Hospital or online for those with multiple sclerosis for the following years:**

**1 January 2018-31st December 2018**  
**1 January 2019-31 December 2019**  
**1 January 2020-31 December 2020**  
**1 January 2021-31st December 2021**

**Please also provide the total number of appointments for January, February and March 2022.**

**Please could you provide the information in the form of a spreadsheet with the correct monthly breakdown.**

Date	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
01.01.18-31.12.18	31	43	41	20	39	42	50	49	58	80	62	35
01.01.19-31.12.19	58	55	83	50	58	57	65	24	47	74	80	60
01.01.20-31.12.20	69	55	81	51	61	56	65	43	60	54	52	45
01.01.21-31.12.21	42	64	57	27	65	63	45	24	50	45	56	52

Date	JAN	FEB	MAR
January, February and March 2022	39	34	63

- 4. A yearly breakdown of the total number of MS nurses working at Royal Gwent Hospital.  
Please provide data for:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of MS Nurses</b>
2012	3
2013	2*
2014	2*
2015	3
2016	3
2017	3
2018	3
2019	3
2020	3
2021	3

\* Due to maternity leave