

13 October 2026

Dear

Reference: ATISN 27573 – Hyperbaric Therapy / Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)

Thank you for your information request received on 25 September 2026. A response to your information request is provided below.

Your Request

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning registration enquiries considered by Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW).

HIW reported that during 2024–25 it received 187 formal registration enquiries, of which 96 were determined not to require registration.

I am interested specifically in hyperbaric therapy / hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT).

Please could you provide:

1. Whether any of the 96 registration enquiries determined not to require registration in 2024–25 involved hyperbaric therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), a hyperbaric chamber, or another service involving treatment/exposure within a pressurised chamber.

2. If yes, for each such case, please provide an anonymised summary of the proposed service and HIW's recorded reason for determining that registration was not required.

Where the following information is recorded in relation to such a case, I would also be grateful if the anonymised summary could include:

- whether the service was described as general wellbeing, wellness, recovery or sports recovery rather than treatment of a medical condition;*
- whether the service was provided by a healthcare or non-healthcare professional;*
- whether a doctor or other medical practitioner was involved;*
- whether clients self-referred or were referred by a healthcare professional;*

- the type of hyperbaric chamber and its operating pressure;*
- whether oxygen or compressed air was used.*

I am not requesting the names, addresses, contact details or other identifying information of applicants or businesses.

If none of the 96 non-registration determinations involved hyperbaric therapy/HBOT or use of a hyperbaric chamber, a simple confirmation of this would fully answer the above request.

If HIW can readily identify from its records any other cases in which it determined that a hyperbaric therapy/HBOT or hyperbaric chamber service did not require registration, I would also be grateful for the same anonymised information and recorded reasoning for those cases. I am not asking HIW to undertake an extensive historical search if these cases cannot readily be identified.

Our Response

I have checked the 96 registration enquiries received during the period 2024–25 that did not require registration. None of these enquiries related to hyperbaric therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), a hyperbaric chamber, or any other service involving treatment or exposure within a pressurised chamber.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely