



GIG  
CYMRU  
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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Bae Abertawe  
Swansea Bay University  
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**  
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Tracy Myhill**

**gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser**  
**caring for each other, working together, always improving**

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-J-025

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Corporate Services  
Headquarters  
1 Talbot Gateway  
Baglan  
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Your request sought information relating to hip replacement waiting times.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused huge disruption to NHS services, not just in Swansea Bay but across the UK. As with all health organisations, we had to suspend non-emergency services and appointments so our hospitals did not become overwhelmed while we cared for those seriously ill with the virus.

Inevitably this has affected waiting times as it has done with all other health boards.

Clearly this is not something any of us would have wanted and we are extremely conscious of the potential consequences for patients. Since the start of the pandemic we have continued to care for those requiring urgent treatment. Our hard-working staff have also come up with innovative solutions to protect services, adapt services to continue recognising the existence of the virus and introduce new ones specifically as a result of the virus – there are numerous examples on our website.

As it has become safe and appropriate to do so we have reintroduced many services, often with changes in place to protect patients and staff.

This information is correct as of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**1. I am requesting the number of people who are awaiting primary or revision hip surgery within the Swansea Bay Health Board**  
1364 patients



**Pencadlys BIP Bae Abertawe, Un Porthfa Talbot, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR / Swansea Bay UHB Headquarters, One Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR**

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Bae Abertawe  
Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

## 2. Where the surgeries are taking place?

The patients are operated on at Morriston Hospital or if suitable Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

## 3. What is the waiting time?

The average waiting time is 72 weeks

## 4. What is being done to rectify the backlog of patients awaiting the surgery?

Waiting lists are continuously being reviewed and where, upon consultation patients are identified as an urgent Category 2 (in line with the Royal College of Surgeons Guidance) the patient is then listed onto the Priority 2 waiting list for surgery. Capacity is very limited and will not solely address the long waiting patients.

A business case has been developed by the service which outlines options that provide a sustainable Orthopaedic and Spinal service to our patients. We are engaged in initial discussions at Welsh Government level via the capital business case process. We are currently at the (draft) Strategic Outline Case stage, it is expected that the Case will be submitted to Welsh Government. Consideration of a short term solution in the form of a temporary theatres and ward unit are being developed so that the surgeries can take place whilst the longer term option is being worked through. In addition, limited planned orthopaedic and spinal surgery is taking place in Neath Port Talbot Hospital through protected capacity as part of the Health Board COVID Reset & Recovery programme.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk).

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk).

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

