



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
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: 7th October 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-I-006

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[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 11th September 2020. Your request sought information relating to surgery waiting lists.

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 in line with Welsh Government guidance 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. We maintained delivery of essential services throughout the pandemic and as it has become safe and appropriate to do so, we have reintroduced many routine services, often with changes in place to protect patients and staff.

Please note that the information we have provided is a snapshot of the waiting list position as at 31st August 2020.



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

1) The number of patients currently waiting for surgery in your health board area, broken down by surgery type where possible.

Main Specialty	Patients
Cardiac Surgery	90
Cardiology	225
Cleft	42
Dermatology	<5*
Endocrinology	<5*
ENT	1,311
Gastroenterology	119
General Medicine	21
General Surgery	1,988
Gynaecology	1,007
Haematology	37
Medicine For The Elderly	<5*
Neurology	444
Ophthalmology	2,652
Oral/Maxillo Facial Surgery	581
Paediatrics	53
Plastic Surgery	1,403
Rehabilitation	7
Rheumatology	<5*
Spinal	923
Thoracic Medicine	9
Thoracic Surgery	28
Trauma & Orthopaedic	4,491
Urology	617
Vascular Surgery	140

2) The current expected waiting time for someone referred for elective surgery as of today.

Given the current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued impact on our services, it is not possible to predict how long a patient may wait for elective surgery. Length of wait will vary greatly depending on clinical urgency and type of surgery being performed amongst other factors. However, we have provided an average wait for patients on elective surgery waiting lists as at 31/08/2020 – 47.4 weeks.

3) Any indication as to how long the backlog of cases, caused by the restrictions due to COVID-19, will take to return to pre-COVID levels (e.g. the waiting times seen in January and February this year)

Given the current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued impact on our services, it is not possible to predict how long it would take to clear backlogs of patients waiting for treatment. Patients are being treated based on clinical priority and capacity will increase when circumstance allows.



We are working hard at restarting services where we can, and finding innovative ways of providing them where possible. You can find more information and updates on our website;

<https://sbuhb.nhs.wales/coronavirus-covid-19/information/re-starting-services>

* Where fewer than 5 has been indicated we are unable to provide you with the exact number of patients as due to the low numbers, there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by 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. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at 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.

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), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

