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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: 26th August 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-G-046

☎ 01639 648363
✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

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

Dear

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 3rd August 2020. Your request sought information relating to delays to operations due to COVID-19 and PPE shortages.

1) Are routine/non-urgent operations now taking place as normal in the health board following the coronavirus lockdown?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Swansea Bay Health Board has been focusing on the most serious and urgent operations, however we plan to reintroduce routine surgery as soon as possible. For example cleft surgery has now resumed on babies. We are also now carrying out a variety of routine diagnostics such as echocardiograms, dermatology skin patch tests and endoscopic ultrasound. We have set up a new webpage which gives the latest updates about restarting our services, and where more examples of resumed routine care can be found: <https://sbuhb.nhs.wales/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-information/re-starting-services>

2) How long on average is the waiting time for a routine/non-urgent operation at the health board? How does this compare with the waiting time before the coronavirus lockdown in March?

Please note that that the average wait for an operation can vary significantly depending on specialty/consultant/type of operation. The average wait given is based on all non-urgent patients who were on the waiting list at the time of the



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

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Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

snapshot – from 0 weeks waiting upwards.

Based on snapshot as at:	
28/02/2020	Average wait for routine elective surgery = 31 weeks
31/07/2020	Average wait for routine elective surgery = 48 weeks

3) How many patients have had their procedures delayed by the shortage of PPE in the health board area?

0

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

