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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: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-F-022

☎ 01639 648363

✉ [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Your request sought information relating to cancer testing.

The Health Board's response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been guided by the statutory requirements and guidance on Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response and the national guidance specific to the pandemic.

The Health Board, like all NHS organisation recognises, and is adjusting to, the reality that for the foreseeable future the local and national health and care system and operating model will need to support an ongoing, albeit fluctuating, demand from COVID, an ongoing demand for urgent and emergency care alongside delivery of non COVID planned urgent and routine care.

Whilst it is very clear that there may well be further COVID-19 surges, we recognise we also need to minimise the harm to patients with cancer as a result of delayed presentation and reduced access to diagnostic tests and treatment.

Capacity for surgical and diagnostic services have been incrementally increased since April in order to increase provision for cancer and other urgent patients.

Planning for cancer provision continues and plans are being updated in "A Framework for Cancer Recovery" issued by Welsh Government.



**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

**I am seeking clarity on what tests are currently available for patients who are suspected of having cancer.**

**1. What cancer [diagnostic] tests are currently available?**

Please see attached Appendix detailing breakdown of available diagnostic tests.

**2. What are the waiting times on tests like endoscopy procedures?**

You clarified on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 that you were looking for waiting times for patients requiring an Endoscopy as part of the cancer diagnostic process.

As on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, current waiting times for Endoscopy procedures as part of the Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) process is 14 days+. However, all USC referrals are individually vetted and wherever possible, alternative diagnostic tests are offered where appropriate.

**3. What are the referral times from the point of confirmation of diagnosis to treatment?**

You clarified on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 that when you refer to "referral times" you are looking for an average of referral times for the most recent complete monthly data available.

As on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, from confirmation of a new diagnosis of cancer (diagnosis date) to first definitive treatment in April 2020 (the last full month's data available) the average wait was 35 days; the median days wait was 34.

**4. What is the waiting list for an emergency gallbladder procedure?**

There is no waiting list for emergency gallbladder surgery.

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**

