



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

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

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Atebir gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn y Gymraeg, ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English. Welsh language correspondence will be replied to in Welsh, and this will not lead to a delay.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 22-K-002**

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, during the first and subsequent waves we suspended 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 was not something any of us would have wanted and we were extremely conscious of the potential consequences for patients.

Since the start of the pandemic we have continued to care for those requiring urgent treatment, and following the pandemic we reintroduced many of our services and have done our best to keep disruption to a minimum throughout the second wave, often with change in place to protect patients and staff, but continuing to provide as much planned care as possible.

Our hard-working staff have supported this by coming 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.

You asked:

You clarified on 21st November 2022 that you are referring to “metal on metal” joint replacements.

1. Who is the lead consultant?

Mr Michael Cronin, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

2. How many missed follow up screenings have occurred during the period of disruption you outline?

You clarified on 3rd November 2022 that you were looking for patients that did not receive a follow up appointment after a metal on metal joint replacement since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020).



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

Please note that the patients identified are patients who have a metal-on-metal joint replacement implant. Patients who have metal-on-metal implants are monitored regularly for the life of the implant, this involves blood tests to check for any abnormalities. Only if any abnormalities are identified will the patient then require a follow up appointment with a clinician.

Therefore, the majority of the patients identified below are patients that did not have a monitoring blood test in the time period specified, rather than those that specifically required follow up relating to their joint replacement (metal-on-metal implant) with a consultant or clinician.

Of 770 patients on the "metal on metal" register that have had a "metal on metal" implant, 409 have not had a further monitoring or follow up appointment since 1/3/2020.

3. Who provided you with the information in order to compile the response to FOI ref 22-J-006? Are they a member of a professional body ?

In our response to you it was stated that the information you requested was held on a database within our Health Board IM&T systems. All FOIA information/responses would go through various sign off procedures before being signed off ultimately by the Director of Corporate Governance.

However, if you are dissatisfied with the way your request was handled, then please get in touch to request an internal review.

