



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-J-008**

You asked:

Following a statement from Health Ministers Office:

Swansea Bay Health Board has received a £26.1 million of the £170m investment to address waiting times in line with the Planned Care Recovery Plan

I can confirm that the Health Board has received £21.6 million, not £26.1 million as quoted above. Therefore we have corrected this in your questions below to avoid confusion.

Swansea Bay Health Board recognise how distressing it is for people who have had long waits for surgery, and understand the devastating effect it can have on their lives. The pandemic has stretched NHS resources to the limit, leading to record waiting times for orthopaedic and other surgery across the UK. This is on top of the usual winter and emergency pressures, which have only worsened an already challenging situation.

Last year, the health board agreed to create a series of centres of excellence at its main hospital sites, allowing it to work through the backlog as quickly and efficiently as possible. The plans include a centre of excellence for planned orthopaedic and spinal surgery at Neath Port Talbot Hospital. It will mean additional beds and operating theatres for orthopaedic surgery, increasing capacity by around 3,000 cases a year.

The centre of excellence at Neath Port Talbot Hospital is a key part of the health board's strategic Changing for the Future programme. Orthopaedic waiting lists, which were already very long before Covid-19, were worsened by the effects of the pandemic. Over half of our patients have now been waiting more than two years for orthopaedic surgery.



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

Neath Port Talbot Hospital plans to offer a ring-fenced elective service aimed at powering through the majority of patients on these lists.

Morrison Hospital will continue to be responsible for orthopaedic trauma patients and orthopaedic patients with more complex needs. The health board is actively looking at how best to serve this last group.

We are in the construction stages and anticipate the new theatres will become operational by June 2023.

1. As of the 29th September 2022, how much of that £21.6 million investment has been spent on reducing waiting times?

As of this date the allocation of 21.6m has been fully committed to schemes designed to contribute to the reduction of waiting times.

2. How has the £21.6 million been shared out between the various departments within SBUHB?

	£m
Orthopaedics	3.6
Ophthalmology	4.2
Other Specialties	3.3
Cancer	0.7
Endoscopy	3.4
Radiology	3.4
Other Diagnostics	1.3
Supporting Infrastructure (Beds, Patient Administration etc)	1.7
Total	21.6

3. What is the Health Boards plan for reducing waiting times in Trauma & orthopaedics?

In the short term additional capacity will be secured through a combination of insourcing and outsourcing arrangements.

Longer term additional capacity will be provided through the commissioning of additional theatre capacity at Neath Port Talbot Hospital under the "centre of excellence" plans.

4. With the additional £21.6 million investment from the Welsh Government how much has waiting time in Trauma Orthopaedics been reduced?

The Health Board is not in a position to report the full impact on the waiting time in Orthopaedics until the end of March 2023.

5. Finally... if a consultant makes a clinical decision that a patient needs urgent treatment who within the Health Board has the authority to override that clinical decision?

There is a weekly meeting at which the surgeons agree the priority for the planned treatment (surgery) of patients. This would only be overridden by these surgeons if a more urgent case presented in the intervening period.

