



GIG
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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: 23-A-008**

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

To know the average wait time for colonoscopy investigations (in weeks) in the year 2022 for patients on a non-urgent pathway (i.e. people not on the suspected cancer pathway).

You clarified on 3rd February 2023 that you are looking for the average times waiting by patients that actually had a non-urgent colonoscopy in 2022.

In the period November 2021 to October 2022 (the most recent full 12 months of data available) 295 admissions were made for a non-urgent colonoscopy procedure.

However, due to the way that information is recorded on our Welsh patient Administration System (WPAS), this will also include "surveillance" and "repeat procedure" patients.

"Surveillance" patients are those that require repeated screening due to high potential risk of cancer and as a result these patients will be added as a "non-urgent" Endoscopy pathway sometimes years in advance. Therefore, the wait for a "surveillance" patient is often much longer than the average "non-urgent" Endoscopy patient, and will have an affect on the average waiting time for patients seen in 2022.

Similarly, "repeat procedure" patients are "surveillance" patients that required a repeat Endoscopy within a short period. So whilst not "urgent", their wait would have been a lot shorter than the average "non-urgent" wait, again having an affect on the average waiting time for patients seen in 2022.

We are not able to exclude these "repeat procedure" and "surveillance" patients as this would involve a manual trawl and exclusion of records which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI Act as the



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reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act and The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulation 2004 provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

Of these 295 admissions, the average wait was 97 weeks.

