

You asked:

Under the freedom of information act please could you provide me data for:

1) The number of patients currently waiting for surgery in your health board area, broken down by surgery type where possible.

Please see response provided in the table below:

Surgical Stage 4 Open Pathways @ 31.08.20	
Specialty	Pathways
100: General Surgery	2637
101: Urology	1284
110: Trauma & Orthopaedic	4764
120: ENT	1147
130: Ophthalmology	1397
140: Oral Surgery	776
190: Anaesthetics	546
502: Gynaecology	1351

2) The current expected waiting time for someone referred for elective surgery as of today.

We are unable to provide the current expected waiting time for someone referred for elective surgery as of today as this would rely on numerous factors such as:

- The service referred to
- The procedure required
- The Clinician involved
- The casemix of the Clinicians waiting list
- The urgency of the procedure

3) Any indication as to how long the backlog of cases, caused by the restrictions due to COVID-19, will take to return to pre-COVID levels (e.g. the waiting times seen in January and February this year)

It remains very difficult to forecast with any certainty when the position will return to the levels seen in January and February, and the recent COVID spike has added to that difficulty.

There is focused work ongoing at present looking at how the Health Board can start operating fully again. Senior colleagues meet weekly to look at solutions and there are plans to increase activity appropriately and safely in the coming months.