

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_473_22

You asked:

Please could you attend to the following freedom of information request

1. How long are your current major AND minor operation waiting lists

The University Health Board (UHB) does not collect information on 'major' and 'minor' operations specifically. Normally this information is collected on a specialty basis – so we would collect data on specific operations within, for example Gynaecology, Orthopaedics or ENT.

The longest waiting times by speciality at present for inpatients (which would include major and minor operations) are as follows:

Please see provided in the table below the longest wait at 10 January 2023 (Wait in weeks).

Breast Surgery	178
Colorectal	200
Ear Nose and Throat Service	254
General Surgery	196
Gynaecology	197
Ophthalmology	178
Oral Surgery	180
Trauma & Orthopaedic	202
Urology	212

2. How long is the current wait in accident and emergency over the last 3 months

This information has proved highly variable and is not very meaningful given the numerous factors involved.

The median and mean times are provided below for all three Emergency Departments (EDs) for the last three months.

Period 27/9/22 to 4/1/23	Number of ED attendances	Mean time in minutes	Median time in minutes
Prince Charles Hospital	16477	578	280
Princess of Wales Hospital	15178	429	213
Royal Glamorgan Hospital	15833	365	206

3. Can you also please outline in detail what you are doing to drastically reduce both those times

The UHB is undertaking a significant amount of work in both areas including:

- **Reducing Inpatient Waiting Times**

- There is a comprehensive process underway to coordinate and monitor the undertaking of a Planned Care Recovery Programme;
- Additional working is being undertaken where possible – this depends upon our ability to actually provide patients with beds, which at present is problematic;
- Outsourcing of work to external providers is underway in a number of areas;
- Validation of waiting lists (to clean the lists and make sure that only those needing operations are on them) is underway in a range of specialties;
- There has been remodelling of services in a range of areas to make optimal use of the resources that we have.

- **Reducing Waiting Times in ED**

- A number of operational and largely clinically led meetings and safety huddles are held daily to monitor waiting times within the ED – this is a labour intensive arrangement which ensures that all three EDs are working together. This includes close liaison with colleagues in the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST);
- In the longer term, there is a programme of work underway focused on reducing inpatient stays, so as to reduce waits in ED.

4. And lastly how many staff do you normally have on duty and how many will you have when NHS staff go on strike

The UHB does not collect this information given the broad variety of Departments over a significant number of sites – the number will also vary from day to day depending on annual leave, sickness and other factors.

During the strike, however, nursing staff across Wales are required to provide a 'life or limb service' within areas where there are normally 24 hour services. This means that for areas like wards, the Emergency Departments, Mental Health, Critical Care and Maternity the normal level of service will be available, with the same number of staff as would be available at a bank holiday.

In terms of other staff, they are required to be in work as normal unless they have pre-existing annual leave booked, are sick or have some kind of emergency that requires special leave – and all these examples are bound by the normal arrangements. If staff did not attend for work, and did not have the arrangement in place outlined above, then it is likely that they would not be paid.