

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_33_23

You asked:

I contacted the Health Board last June via a Freedom of Information request in relation to the decision by the Broadlands Dental Practice in Bridgend to cease treating NHS patients.

In your reply, dated 12 July 2022, you stated that there were approximately 15,000 patients within that practice and that of 18 NHS dental practices in Bridgend, 12 were able to accept new patients seeking NHS treatment.

I asked what steps you were taking to assign Broadlands patients to other NHS practices and in your reply you said: "The Health Board are currently working through interim and long term plans to ensure that patients have continued access to NHS dental services in the Bridgend area. These plans are not yet finalised."

Can you please give me an update on this situation?

Further to our reply dated 12 July, we can confirm the following updates.

The Health Board has:

- set up a Health Board run clinic with salaried dental teams in Gilfach Goch [Bridgend] to treat patients for urgent care whilst they wait to be allocated to a dental practice in Bridgend. Patients can access this service by calling the urgent dental hub. This is in addition to practices already delivering this service in the area.
- Additional recurrent monies were provided to 4 practices in Bridgend to provide urgent and ongoing care to patients
- A new practice is due to open in the central Bridgend area in October/November 2023

I would be grateful if you could let me know how many patients have been assigned to new dental practices and how many patients are still waiting?

We can confirm that the Health Board has assigned in total 6898 patients to dental practices across the Health Board footprint and there are 3,345 patient currently on the waiting list.

Are you able to find places for everyone who needs them or are you experiencing difficulties in getting existing NHS practices to take on more patients?

The Health Board assigns patients to 35 contract reform practices from the waiting list every quarter, sending approximately 1,100 patients to practices. At present 3,345 patients remain on the waiting list, a further patient list will be sent to practices in April'23.