



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_510_25

You asked:

I'm interested in finding out some facts about the operation backlog in the Welsh Health Service, and the number of patients that, unfortunately, for one reason or another, pay for their operations privately.

Under section 21 of the Act, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you.

For ease of access, we have attached links directly to the information below:

Data on NHS waiting times are published every month on StatsWales [Hospital and other care setting activity | StatsWales](#)

Previous FOIA responses are also published via our [Disclosure Log](#) on the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board](#) web site.

- [CTMUHB 319 25](#)

Also, how many of these people feel compelled to take their treatment outside Wales because of long waiting lists or cheaper costs?

We do not hold this information.

If a patient in Wales does have a private operation, for example a hip or knee replacement, and subsequently taken off any waiting list, would this be reflected as a reduction in the backlog of people waiting for an operation in Wales, to the apparent success of the Welsh NHS? Thus, erroneously or deliberately, misrepresenting the efficiency of the devolved Welsh NHS?

If a patient chooses private treatment and informs the Health Board, they are removed from the NHS waiting list for that procedure. This is standard practice to avoid duplicate bookings. This removal would reduce the waiting list figures.