

Reference:	FOI.19080.25
Subject:	Abortion wait times
Date of Request:	10 December 2025

Requested:

Requesting:

1. The average waiting time from first interaction (phone call, email, contact form) to abortion treatment (medical or surgical) for all abortions in the last 12 months, broken down by gestation weeks if available
2. The longest waiting time for an abortion treatment in the last 12 months
3. Percentage of staff who have a conscientious objection to performing abortions at present

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the average wait time for abortion treatment was 7.3 working days from initial contact to consultation, as recorded on the UHB's Sexual Health Management IT system (Lillie) between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.

The UHB is unable to break this data down by number of weeks gestation as information is recorded as first or second trimester, not by weeks' gestation.

2. The UHB confirms that the longest wait time for abortion treatment was 15 working days from initial contact to consultation, as recorded on the UHB's Sexual Health Management IT system (Lillie) between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.

This was caused by a sudden increase in demand for the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service. At this point to mitigate delays the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service developed a process to sub-contract referrals to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) for early abortion care.

The UHB work to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines of a maximum of 10 working days for abortion treatment. However, should the UHB breach this, there is now a process in place where anyone who contacts the UHB to access an abortion is provided with a brief telephone assessment and is then offered a referral to BPAS, at this stage patients can elect to stay with the UHB to receive their care and treatment.

3. The UHB does not have any staff working within the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service who have a conscientious objection to performing abortions.