

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.14077.24
<b>Subject:</b>	Hip and knee surgery
<b>Date of Request:</b>	21 March 2024

**Requested:**

- Please can you advise what the quickest, median and longest waiting times are from initial referral to the waiting list to surgery being completed, for the following surgeries in your Health Board. Please could the data be broken down by quarter for the last 5 years.
  - Urgent hip replacements
  - Routine hip replacements
  - Urgent knee replacements
  - Routine knee replacements
- Can you also advise how many patients have accessed S2 funding for treatment abroad broken down by year for the last 5 years. Can you list the treatment type e.g. hip/knee replacement etc and the clinics/countries where the treatment was obtained.

**Response:**

- Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the tables overleaf, the shortest, longest and median wait times, from referral to routine and urgent hip and knee replacement procedures, per quarter, for the 2019 to 2023 calendar years.

Shortest wait, in days, for routine and urgent hip replacements								
Calendar year	January – March		April – June		July – September		October – December	
	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent
2019	0	43	13	5	24	12	18	7
2020	7	11	0	0	282	169	380	40
2021	0	0	118	20	7	34	60	24
2022	313	44	21	2	65	53	13	32
2023	94	9	34	4	16	20	4	20

Shortest wait, in days, for routine and urgent knee replacements								
Calendar year	January – March		April – June		July – September		October – December	
	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent
2019	0	31	22	15	16	42	4	28
2020	19	3	0	0	285	225	794	246
2021	0	0	48	1	69	35	41	36
2022	181	100	24	182	132	37	21	126
2023	286	62	49	56	28	19	4	13

Longest wait, in days, for routine and urgent hip replacements								
Calendar year	January – March		April – June		July – September		October – December	
	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent	Routine	Urgent
2019	664	637	453	493	349	450	482	310
2020	757	365	0	0	309	397	432	517
2021	0	0	705	800	738	853	965	867

<b>2022</b>	1,008	927	1,164	971	1,248	999	1,204	1,343
<b>2023</b>	1,407	1,273	1,800	1,448	1,398	1,460	2,000	1,539

<b>Longest wait, in days, for routine and urgent knee replacements</b>								
<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>January – March</b>		<b>April – June</b>		<b>July – September</b>		<b>October – December</b>	
	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>
<b>2019</b>	798	545	769	395	798	495	512	363
<b>2020</b>	546	580	0	0	421	300	794	463
<b>2021</b>	0	0	801	639	728	1,003	889	827
<b>2022</b>	985	915	1,044	974	1,254	1,150	1,322	1,153
<b>2023</b>	1,288	1,232	1,426	1,518	1,439	1,469	1,625	1,769

<b>Median wait, in days, for routine and urgent hip replacements</b>								
<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>January – March</b>		<b>April – June</b>		<b>July – September</b>		<b>October – December</b>	
	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>
<b>2019</b>	268	242	208	174	184	158	167	124
<b>2020</b>	223	184	0	0	300	242	405	351
<b>2021</b>	0	0	578	370	336	333	678	198
<b>2022</b>	749	430	592	277	824	331	756	411
<b>2023</b>	726	599	614	373	705	471	643	514

<b>Median wait, in days, for routine and urgent knee replacements</b>								
<b>Calendar year</b>	<b>January – March</b>		<b>April – June</b>		<b>July – September</b>		<b>October – December</b>	
	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>	<b>Routine</b>	<b>Urgent</b>
<b>2019</b>	279	242	209	179	202	174	223	147
<b>2020</b>	217	238	0	0	353	263	794	380
<b>2021</b>	0	0	187	542	348	576	537	505
<b>2022</b>	778	489	616	534	969	768	988	565
<b>2023</b>	740	534	820	454	930	419	947	424

2. The UHB does not hold the information prior to the 2021/22 financial year, as the S2 Funding for Planned Treatment in Europe requests only came into effect on the 31 December 2020, upon the United Kingdom (UK) leaving the European Union (EU) under Brexit. However, the UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients that accessed S2 funding for hip and/or knee replacement treatment abroad, due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.