

Reference:	FOI.12246.23
Subject:	Knee replacement surgery
Date of Request:	19 July 2023

Requested:

I am requesting under The Freedom of Information Act :-

- 1) The number of people waiting for an urgent replacement
- 2) The approximate waiting time for such an operation.

Response:

- 1) Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that there are two-thousand-one-hundred and thirty-nine (2,139) people waiting for knee replacement or revision knee replacement surgery, as at 4 August 2023.
- 2) The UHB confirms that due to recent restricted surgical activity, the ability to reliably calculate a patient's wait time for surgery is extremely difficult, and as patients are regularly added to these lists, predicted waiting times change continually.

The UHB is currently treating patients in line with the Welsh Government (WG) Ministerial Measure targets issued to Welsh Health Boards advising that no patients should be waiting longer than fifty-two (52) weeks for their first outpatient appointment and no patients should wait longer than one hundred and four (104) weeks for treatment. Health Boards across Wales are providing regular updates to WG on their progress towards achieving these targets.

Additionally, the UHB addresses its waiting lists by treating patients in line with their clinical urgency. The UHB's consultants have risk stratified their waiting lists in line with Royal College Guidance. The focus will be on addressing these risk stratified ministerial cohorts in order, to ensure we are treating those with complex needs first.

However, the UHB provides, within the table below, the current longest wait times, in weeks and priority, for knee replacement surgery, as at 4 August 2023.

Knee surgery	Longest wait in weeks
Priority 2	238
Priority 3	243
Priority 4	286

Further information on hospital waiting times can be found on the WG StatsWales website. For ease of reference, a link to the waiting list webpage has been provided below:

[Patient pathways waiting to start treatment by month, grouped weeks and treatment function, January 2021 onwards \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/patient-pathways-waiting-to-start-treatment-by-month-grouped-weeks-and-treatment-function-january-2021-onwards)