Reference:	FOI.3347.20
Subject:	Ophthalmology
Date of Request:	10 June 2020

Requested:

I am writing in relation to the below information relating to Ophthalmology and Cataract surgery at the Hospital.

1. Is there a written plan for return to ophthalmology and Cataract surgery at the Hospital?
    - Please share if possible

2. Are there dates for Planned Return for the trust to start Cataract Surgery?

3. Are there any further details on

    a. A phased return to Ophthalmology/Cataract surgery (25% 50% 75% 100%)?
    b. A set timeline on the phased return to Ophthalmology / Cataract surgery?

4. How is Cataract surgery is being prioritised?
    - If there is a grading system please clarify the details?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms a written plan is in the process of being developed for all Ophthalmology services across the UHB.

    This information is intended for future publication as part of the UHB's Board papers and is therefore exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 22 can be applied when there is a clear intention to publish the information requested at the time the request was received.

    The UHB's Board meetings and papers can be accessed via the link below:
    http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/40875

2. The UHB confirms, the return of cataract surgery is planned for week commencing 13 July 2020.

3a. The UHB confirms, due to the social distancing measures and treatment room ventilation requirements, it is working towards a 50% return with 3 cataract surgeries per list. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic there were 6 cataract surgeries per list.

3b. The UHB confirms, all urgent sight saving surgery has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The UHB plans to commence cataract surgery week commencing 13 July 2020.

4. The UHB confirms, all Ophthalmology referrals are graded in line with the mandatory NHS Wales Eye Care Measures, the system developed by Welsh Government, implemented in 2018 which ensures patients most at risk of sight loss are prioritised.