

Reference:	FOI.3970.20
Subject:	Surgery lists
Date of Request:	10 September 2020

Requested:

1. The number of patients currently waiting for surgery in your health board area, broken down by surgery type where possible.
2. The current expected waiting time for someone referred for elective surgery as of today.
3. Any indication as to how long the backlog of cases, caused by the restrictions due to COVID-19, will take to return to pre-COVID levels (e.g. the waiting times seen in January and February this year)

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table overleaf, the number of patients currently waiting for surgery, by specialty, as recorded on 31 August 2020.

Specialty	Total
Breast	72
Cardiology	97
Clinical Haematology	20
Colorectal	220
ENT	282
Gastroenterology	485
General Medicine	34
General Surgery	1,530
Geriatric Medicine	1
Gynaecology	599
Neurology	4
Ophthalmology	2,337
Paediatrics	4
Pain Management	227
Respiratory Medicine	28
Rheumatology	95
Trauma & Orthopaedics	3,138
Urology	1,510
Vascular	13
Total	10,696

2. The UHB is currently unable to predict waiting times for elective surgery referrals. The UHB's Clinicians regularly review the current waiting lists and are working with Welsh Government (WG) to risk stratify the waiting lists for each specialty.
3. The UHB confirms that it does not hold protected times to clear the backlog of elective surgery due to the current precautions in place and the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community.

However, the UHB is gradually restarting services at reduced capacity levels in line with guidance from the Royal Colleges, Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, and is treating patients strictly in accordance with clinical prioritisation.

The UHB's Board meeting on 24 September 2020 included papers with information on the reinstating of services. This information is already within the public domain; therefore, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is accessible by another means.

For ease of reference please click on the link provided, which will take you directly to the UHB's Board meeting papers:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/your-health-board/board-meetings-2020/board-agenda-and-papers-24th-september-2020/>