

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Mark Isherwood MS
Member of the Senedd for North Wales

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17 June 2022

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking for further information about hip replacement surgeries in Wales.

The Welsh Government does not collect data at sub speciality level only at a speciality level. I am unable to confirm the number of patients awaiting a hip replacement operation. A proxy for the number of patients waiting for orthopaedic treatment is the numbers at the treatment stage of the pathway, this can be found on the StatsWales website: [StatsWales](#)

The Welsh Government and health boards have continued to work to improve waiting times during the COVID pandemic, and all appropriate facilities are being used to deliver services. Health Boards have been advised to make full use of all available capacity, including the independent sector and any NHS organisations in England that may have capacity available.

In March 2022, management information suggests the amount of orthopaedic inpatient / daycase activity was more than double the level it was in March 2021 and was at a similar level to March 2020. Activity levels have been gradually increasing over recent months.

In relation to current waiting times, the latest data on median waiting times for trauma and orthopaedics can be found on StatsWales at <https://statswales.gov.wales/Download/File?fileId=512>.

Health Boards have initiated several directives to clearing the backlog and increasing activity through ensuring additional facilities are being used, including the repurposing of Neath Port Talbot Hospital in Swansea Bay to deliver more orthopaedic activity, additional units being utilised in Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr in Aneurin Bevan, Abergele Hospital in North Wales and in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the health board is developing the Royal Glamorgan Hospital as a surgical hub, which will provide protected beds for their inpatient work.

A National Clinical Strategy for Orthopaedic Surgery was commissioned by Welsh Government in 2021 to challenge health boards to think ambitiously to define the most effective service model to deliver elective orthopaedic surgical care. This will provide a blueprint for recommendations for recovering and restoring orthopaedic surgery going forward. I am meeting with the team leading the orthopaedic strategy and the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) team in June and the strategy will be completed in July.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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