

5 July 2023

Dear

ATISN 18684 – Use of Private Health Providers

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 05 July 2023 relating to the NHS patients referred to private healthcare. You requested the following:

Please provide the following information for the period 2020/21;2021/22; 2022/23 in relation to NHS patients who receive treatment at any private health establishment across NHS Wales.

- 1. How many patients for each of the three years were due to have a medical procedure in a NHS hospital but were transferred to a private medical hospital?*
- 2. What are the 10 top procedures (by volume) that are referred to a private sector provider?*
- 3. What is the cost comparison for the top three procedures eg how much would it cost on NHS vs cost at private establishment?*
- 4. If Hip and Knee replacement do not fall in the top three procedures provide these as a specific request?*
- 5. How many of the consultants that carry out the procedures privately also undertake works directly for NHS?*
- 6. What if any is the specific level of budget allocated for private procedures for each of the three years?*
- 7. Provide a copy of the procedure criteria used to determine whether a patient stays on an NHS list or whether they should go to a private establishment?*

Response

Welsh Government does not hold this level of detail requested. Commissioning of services from the private sector is the responsibility of each health board as part of their local plans and their commissioning arrangements.

You may wish to contact individual health boards and I have added a link below that provides contact points for each health board:

[Contact Us - NHS Wales](#)

Next Steps

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response.

We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:
Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:
Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process

Yours sincerely,