



Bwrdd Iechyd  
Cwm Taf  
Health Board

Your ref/eich cyf:  
Our ref/ein cyf:  
Date/Dyddiad:  
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CTHB\_204\_12  
6 September 2012  
01443 744835

[Claire.northwell2@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Claire.northwell2@wales.nhs.uk)  
Corporate Services

## **Private & Confidential**

### **Sent by email to:**

[request-125748-7ef7a548@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-125748-7ef7a548@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Williams

### **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB\_204\_12**

Thank you for your request for information received on 14 August 2012 regarding cataract surgery. Please find the response from Cwm Taf Health Board set out below:

#### **You asked:**

1. What is your current policy on cataract surgery. In particular the criteria used to decide:
  - when a patient is eligible for surgery
  - whether the patient can have surgery in both eyes if they have a cataract in both
2. What is the longest waiting time for referral to treatment time for cataract surgery in your health board?
3. At the end of May 2012, how many patients do you have currently waiting longer than 26 weeks for cataract surgery?

#### **Our response:**

1. The current policy is that the decision for eligibility of cataract surgery is made by the doctor in clinic on consultation. Any other ocular co-morbidity would be assessed and a decision of whether surgery would be of benefit is made in clinic. The patient would then be seen normally two weeks before surgery for a general health assessment and biometry measurements. Any problems at this stage are normally discussed with the relevant surgeon and a decision made whether to carry on with surgery or refer back to GP/relevant person/clinic.

Surgery on both eyes would be offered but not at the same time, as a precautionary measure in the event of complications only one eye would be affected.

2. Our longest waiting time for referral to treatment at present is 36 weeks.
3. As of the end of May, 968 have waited longer than 26 weeks.

I trust that this provides the information that you require. Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below. If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or fax: 01625 524510.

You should note, however, that the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted our internal complaints procedures before dealing with such an application. Further guidance may be found on the Information Commissioner's website <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

The Information Commissioner recommends that all public authorities should publish a disclosure log. Such logs allow the public and other interested parties to see questions which have already been asked and answered and to quickly identify information of interest. Please note that Cwm Taf Health Board routinely publishes details of all Freedom of Information Act requests received in its disclosure log. The Disclosure Log can be found at [www.cwmtafhb.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.cwmtafhb.wales.nhs.uk).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries

Yours sincerely



**Amanda Powell**  
**Head of Corporate Services**