

5 December 2024

Dear

ATISN 23167 – use of private sector

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 25 September 2024

You have requested the following:

1. Spending on Ophthalmology Services in the Private Sector:

1.1. *Could you provide a breakdown of the expenditure on ophthalmology services referred to the private sector over the past five years, categorized by Health Board?*

1.2. *What is the total number of individual cases referred to the private sector during this period?*

1.3. *What is the average cost per case for these referrals?*

2. Referrals to Santa Maria Hospital:

2.1. *What has been the total expenditure by Local Health Boards on patient referrals to Santa Maria Hospital over the past five years?*

2.2. *What is the average cost per case for these referrals?*

2.3. *How many cases are referred annually during this period?*

3. Cross-Border A&E Costs:

3.1. *What are the total costs incurred by the NHS in Wales for Welsh residents attending A&E services in England over the past five years?*

3.2. *What is the total number of cases annually for Welsh residents using A&E services in England?*

3.3. *What is the average cost per patient for these cross-border services?*

3.4. *Does this data account for instances where patients sought care in England due to extended wait times in Wales?*

Our Response

Welsh Government does not hold this information. We suggest that you contact Health Boards for further information, they can be contacted via this [link](#)

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
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,