

9 March 2026

Dear

ATISN 26685 – Waiting Times

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 09 February 2026 regarding the guidance to health boards on waiting list management.

You requested the following:

In relation to the period from January 2022 to present, I would be grateful for you to provide all:

1. *All national guidance, circulars, or instructions issued that relate to:*
 - a. *Elective procedure cancellations,*
 - b. *Waiting list removals,*
 - c. *Use of paused/indefinitely postponed statuses, or*
 - d. *Reclassification of procedures (e.g., low-priority or non-commissioned).*
2. *Any correspondence with BCUHB specifically that concerns their management of cancellations, paused services, or waiting-list removals.*

Our Response

1. Guidance that relates to raise in Question 1 a-c are all covered in the nationally published refreshed RTT guidance April 22, supported by Doc 2 that describe the changes from the previous 2017 guidance.

More recently national guidance on validation has been issued to support waiting list management see docs 3-5

Re question 1 d. these tend to be clinical matters and our supported by guidance through clinical networks and programmes link to published guidance

[Service specifications - NHS Wales Performance and Improvement](#)

Also link to the planned care programme [Strategic Programme for Planned Care - NHS Wales Performance and Improvement](#)

Forms part of national planning guidance documentation 2025-2028

[NHS Wales planning framework 2025 to 2028 | GOV.WALES](#)

2. Please see documents 6-17 regarding any correspondence with BCUHB specifically that concerns their management of cancellations, paused services, or waiting-list removals.

Next Steps

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,