

Dear

ATISN 26925 - Automated surgical technology within NHS Wales urology services

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 27 April 2026 relating to the Automated surgical technology within NHS Wales urology services.

- 1. Has the Welsh Government or the Chief Medical Officer for Wales issued any national guidance regarding the use of automated circular stapling devices (e.g., ZSR, CircCurer) for adult therapeutic urology procedures?*
- 2. What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the productivity gains (e.g., theatre time reduction) offered by these technologies compared to traditional freehand suturing?*
- 3. How does the Welsh Government ensure that all seven Health Boards are complying with the Montgomery v Lanarkshire (2015) ruling regarding the provision of information on all reasonable surgical alternatives (including automated stapling)?*
- 4. Does the Welsh Government hold any data on the number of Welsh residents seeking these specific urological procedures privately due to the lack of availability within NHS Wales Health Boards?*

Our Response

The Welsh government does not hold the information you have requested. The Welsh Government does not have a national policy or guidance on the adoption of “automated surgical technology”. It does not routinely collect data on the procedure mentioned or have access to it in the independent healthcare sector. It is the responsibility of the health boards in Wales to comply with the law in the exercise of their functions, you may wish to contact them for this information, their contact details are [here](#).

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,