

8 January 2025

Dear

ATISN 23192 – Private Healthcare

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 14 December 2024 relating to private healthcare for people who live in Wales. You have requested the following:

- *Guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care*
- *Referral of patients by private GPs (fully registered general medical practitioners) to NHS for diagnostic tests or specialist services*

Our Response

Welsh Government does not hold the information requested.

We do acknowledge that some patients may decide that they want to have all or part of their care privately. This is decided by the individual in discussion with a private NHS provider. If patients wish to return to NHS this is covered in our Referral to Treatment (RTT) policy. see page 10. When a referral is sent and accepted an NHS pathway clock will commence.

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/files/key-documents/policies/final-rtt-rules-patient-perspective-only-april-2017-pdf/>

The patient cannot be both private and NHS although they can move between both. There are times that people can receive private health care in the NHS premises this is arranged by the private NHS provided with the NHS receiving payment for services used.

There may be sometimes that the NHS may commission directly with the private sector to provide services for the NHS, the patient will not be expected to pay anything for this commissioner service.

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,