

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-272	19 th July 2021
--------------------------------	------------	----------------------------

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the information below.

- **How many under 18s are waiting for orthodontics referrals and treatment in ABUHB?**

As of 30th June 2021

Under 18's waiting for first outpatient appointment = 362
 Under 18 waiting for treatment = 193

- **By how much has this number increased since NHS orthodontics initial assessments were suspended due to covid?**

Waiting list figures for treatments are live and there is no snap shot for the same time period, therefore unable to provide this information. However, I can confirm that as at 31st January 2020 there were 208 under 18s waiting for their first outpatient appointment.

- **By how much has this number increased since December 2020 when the Welsh Government asked orthodontic providers to prioritise patients with the greatest need rather than a first come first served approach?**

Waiting list figures for treatments are live and there is no snap shot for the same time period, therefore we are unable to provide this information. However, I can confirm that as at 31st December 2020 there were 325 under 18s waiting for their first outpatient appointment.

- **Is ABUHB investing any money into this area to try to clear a backlog? The Welsh Government says it is allocating £270 million pounds to help health boards increase capacity and cut waiting times - will any of this help under 18s waiting for orthodontics?**

Yes, the Health Board has commenced recruitment of an Orthodontic Consultant to support increased capacity.

The departments at the Royal Gwent and Nevill Hall Hospitals have received investment for improved ventilation to enable more patients to be seen in line with strict guidance on aerosol generated procedures which are used in Orthodontics.