

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-439	5th November 2021
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Just wondering if the Health Board has adopted a policy or a position on the question of face-to-face consultations with GP's

Practices have adopted a blended approach to patient consultations, offering both face to face and remote consultations, as appropriate. The number of face to face appointments is steadily increasing, however there are challenges with this, especially in relation to managing social distancing and throughput of patients.

It is important that some of the changes that have been made during the pandemic, where they are still appropriate, are not lost. The need to maintain a safe environment for staff and patients remains paramount. A level of remote consultations will remain in place for those patients who would benefit from such a service. Additionally, a blended approach to consultations in the future will ensure that all patients have access to their local GP services in a way that is right for them.

Many GP practices will have a multi-disciplinary practice team, which includes extended roles such as Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Physiotherapist, Paramedics, Mental Health Practitioners and Occupational Therapists. Patients do not always need to see a GP and the practice will have systems in place to navigate patients to the appropriate health care professional or service best placed to treat them.