



Ref: ATISN 18698

1 August 2023

Dear ,

ATISN 18698 – Ophthalmology Services

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 07 July 2023. You have requested the following:

- 1. How much of the planned care recovery and transformation funding has been, and is expected to be, allocated to ophthalmology services.*
- 2. A breakdown of how the funding allocated to ophthalmology services is being spent. For example, how much is being spent on staff recruitment, additional clinical facilities, surgery units and theatres, improvements to NHS estate, support for patients waiting for treatment, outsourcing of treatments to private providers etc. Please provide this information for each health board.*
- 3. Whether the Welsh Government have set any requirements for how the money allocated to ophthalmology should be spent.*
- 4. Whether any funding has been allocated to ophthalmology services for the purpose of improving their performance against the [eye care measures for NHS outpatients](#). Specifically, whether there are targets in place for reducing the numbers of patients categorised as being at the highest risk of irreversible harm or significant patient waiting beyond their clinically determined target date for treatment.*

Our Response

1. Welsh government does not hold the level of detail you have in relation to £170m planned care recovery funding. You would need to ask each health board for the level of detail you have requested.

Welsh Government however does hold more detail in relation to the annual £15m transformation allocation,

Appendix A provides a summary of the funding allocated to each health board from 2021-22, (pre planned care recovery plan) 2022-23 and Q1&2 for 2023-24.

2. We do not hold the detail level you have requested; however Appendix A provides a high-level summary of the projects where the additional £15m transformation monies have been allocated, and also highlights the stated outcomes each project would deliver.

3. A copy of the Welsh government guidance issued to support all transformation bids is enclosed. The appropriate section is:

In accordance with this, the fund is being allocated to achieve the following strategic aims:

1. To reduce the numbers of patients waiting for a follow up appointment;
2. To reduce the length of time patients are waiting for a new and follow up appointment;
3. Increase performance against the nationally agreed eye-care measures
4. To ensure that no patient is waiting over 52 weeks for an outpatient appointment by the end of 2022; and
5. To transform the way, planned care services are delivered and that these are sustainable.

The indicative funding allocations available to each health board / trust is outlined in the table below.

HB/Organisation								
	ABUHB	BCUHB	CAVUHB	CTMUHB	HDUHB	PTHB	SBUHB	VCC
Central support	£195,000	£195,000	£195,000	£195,000	£195,000	£130,000	£195,000	£100,000
Outpatient transformation Projects	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000	£220,000	£170,000	£220,000	£110,000
Eye-care transformation projects	£225,000	£225,000	£225,000	£225,000	£225,000	£150,000	£225,000	N/A
TOTAL	£640,000	£640,000	£640,000	£640,000	£640,000	£450,000	£640,000	£210,000

4. As indicated in the guidance note for transformation funding health boards were asked to improve performance against the eye care measures by managing referrals through the use of primary care resources in particular optometrists. The funding is for health boards to test and try new ways of working with the expectation that they will continue to fund through their core service delivery once the additional support funding finishes.

The target remains 75% of patients categorised as highest risk (R1) should be seen on target or within 25% of their individual target review date.

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,