

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/443**  
**Orthopaedic Services**

**1. What progress they are making with developing orthopaedic centres and/or ensuring they can continue to offer elective orthopaedic surgery when health services are under pressure?**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) have implemented ring-fenced beds, and there are no plans to de-escalate orthopaedic activity over the winter. The UHB are making investments to increase elective surgical activity over the next 6 months to go back to pre-Covid levels as fast as possible.

**2. How many elective hip and knee replacement operations they are doing each month compared to before the pandemic?**

The UHB are carrying out around 50% of pre-Covid surgical activity for hip and knee replacement, this equated to around 50 joint replacements a month on average.

**3. What support programmes are they offering to people with arthritis who are on waiting lists for joint replacements to help them manage the challenges of their long waits?'**

The main programmes are:

- ESCAPE Pain: a community group physiotherapy programme to educate patients on how to best cope with arthritis
- British Red Cross Support: referral to social services to support patients in need
- Prepare Well: health optimisation programme to get patient fitter towards their surgery
- GP interface work: review of longest waiters in the outpatient wait list, longest waiters first