

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/338**

**Cardiology Waiting Times**

**Information Requested:**

Can I ask if new Cardiology patients are being given appointments ahead of those who are already on the waiting list?

Can I also ask for the figures in the previous FOI to be broken down further by outpatients, inpatients and those on the diagnostic waiting list.

Could I also have the data, both in the previous FOI and in the reply to this enquiry be broken down month by month between December 2023 and March 2024.

**Response Details:**

*The requestor is referring to the disclosure made by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board under reference 'FoI.24.122' for the purposes of the above requests.*

The current process for outpatient referrals to the Cardiology Department is outlined as follows:

- 1) Cardiology referrals are prioritised by a consultant cardiologist who will decide, based on clinical information, whether a patient needs to be placed on the urgent or routine waiting list.
- 2) The cardiologist will also decide the clinic to which the patient should be allocated at the point of prioritisation: general cardiology clinic or sub-specialty clinic.
- 3) The wait can therefore vary depending on whether the patient is on an urgent or routine waiting list and the clinic waiting list to which they were allocated.
- 4) All cardiology clinics are booked via the Health Board's patient participation booking process (PPB), and patients are offered appointments in turn (long waiting patients from the urgent and routine outpatient waiting lists) for the specified clinic.
- 5) If the cardiologist receives an expedite letter by a GP or clinician due to clinical deterioration, then a patient may be seen sooner at the request of the cardiologist.

Please also see the attached Excel document for data on Cardiology waiting times. Care is prioritised based on clinical urgency.