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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chairman: **Andrew Davies**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Tracy Myhill**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 22nd May 2019
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-D-013

☎ 01639 683312

☎ 01639 648363

🖱 FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

Corporate Administration
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 9th April 2019. I apologise for the delay in responding. Your request sought information relating to 'no deal' Brexit.

1. Have any 'no deal' Brexit impact assessments carried out by the health board.

The Health Board can confirm that it does hold the information requested, however it is withholding this for the following reasons:

FOI Act - Section 29 – The Economy

The Health Board believes the release of this information could cause premature financial harm, be detrimental to the economic interests of the Health Board and so putting the public wellbeing at risk. The disclosure of this information could jeopardise the ability of the Health Board to enter into arrangements with providers and therefore reduce the ability to obtain the best value for money and maintain the services provided.

Section 29 of the Act states: Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice:

- The economic interests of the United Kingdom or of any part of the United Kingdom, or
- The financials interests of any administration in the United Kingdom, as defined by section 28(2).



Pencadlys BIP Bae Abertawe, Un Porthfa Talbot, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR / Swansea Bay UHB Headquarters, One Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

Section 29 is subject to the public interest test. Whilst the public have an interest in the risk to the Health Board associated with leaving the EU without a deal, disclosure could impact on the Health Board being able to manage risks and impact the ability to negotiate and obtain the best value for money in the event of a no deal exit.

Therefore the Health Board considers that maintaining financial stability and the ability to negotiate with providers to maintain the services provided in Health Board and in the event of a no deal exit outweighs the benefit in the release of this information.

Also under the Health Boards obligation to advise and assist, we are able to inform you that a no deal Brexit is highlighted on the Health Boards Risk Register. Please find attached an extract from this register.

To add some context to this, the Welsh Government has been working with the UK Department of Health and Social Care to ensure robust plans are put in place to protect patient safety and healthcare provision as the UK leaves the European Union, including in the event of a 'no deal' scenario.

As a health board, we also need to be as prepared as possible, so we have been establishing resilience arrangements including:

- A health board-wide risk assessment to establish a common understanding of the potential challenges on services that may have an impact on services, for example: rapid turnover items, items and categories directly supplied from outside the UK and important equipment which is regularly serviced.
- Ensuring there are up to date business continuity arrangements in place which include mitigation measures.
- Contact with companies that our services liaise directly with to gain further assurance regarding continuity of service.
- Multi-agency engagement via Local Resilience Forum
- Representation at Welsh Government Civil Contingencies Brexit group, and links with other NHS Wales groups

2. If any confidentiality agreement has been placed on the Health Board as a means of not disclosing this information, please provide a copy of that agreement.

I can confirm that no confidentiality agreement has been placed on the Health Board in relation to non-disclosure of this information.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office



(Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

