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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd Dros Dro/ Interim Chair: **Emma Woollett**
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: 20th September 2019
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-H-013

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✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

Corporate Services
Headquarters
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[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 12th August 2019. Your request sought information relating to the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Singleton Hospital.

- 1. Has any decision been made yet by the health board to formally close the MIU? If so, when was that decision taken and from when is the closure to take effect. If not, when is the health board due to take its decision.**

Following a meeting with the Community Health Council, the Health Board decided to continue the temporary closure of the MIU until November 2019. During this time more data and information will be gathered to help develop potential options for the future use of MIU resources. Public engagement/consultation is planned to take place in the autumn.

- 2. What was the staffing complement for this unit when it was open and running at full capacity?**

What have been the staffing problems experienced with keeping this unit open over the past 12 months?

The MIU is a GP-led unit. It requires 14 GPs (i.e. 14 dedicated sessions) to keep the unit open during its weekday and weekend opening hours. Even before the MIU was temporarily closed last November it had frequently had to shut at very short notice because of staffing issues for some time. We currently have 5 MIU GPs who provide 7 sessions between them.



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

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3. What steps have been taken to recruit new staff to provide cover at the unit?

Following the recent resignation of a number of GPs, the clinical lead for the service contacted all 430 GPs in the health board area, but unfortunately not one appointment resulted from this effort.

4. When did the unit temporarily close and what happened to the staff who remained in the unit.

The MIU closed temporarily on 12th November 2018. The closure was in connection with £300,000 refurbishment work being undertaken at an adjacent service, the Singleton Assessment Unit (SAU). This work was in response to concerns raised by the Community Health Council and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales over the layout and general fabric of SAU. In order for the work to proceed, the MIU needed to temporarily close.

The staff that worked in MIU covered both MIU and the Acute GP Unit. As a result of the temporary closure of the MIU, the staff now just cover the Acute GP Unit given the increase in activity in that service.

5. In the 12 months prior to the temporary closure, what were the normal opening hours of the unit? How many times was the unit closed because of staff shortages?

The MIU opening hours are 8am to 8pm if there is a full compliment of GP staff available. During a six month period in 2018 the unit had to close 50 times, often at short notice, resulting in an inability to notify the local public.

6. In the 12 months prior to the temporary closure, how many patients were treated at the unit.

The unit has been temporarily closed from November 2018. The number of attendances between April 2018 and November 2018 was 2310. However, recent analysis of typical attendances over a two-week period showed that approximately 40% of these attendances were clinically appropriate for the services offered by the MIU.

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

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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

