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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: 16th March 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-B-023

01639 [REDACTED]
FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 17th February 2020. Your request sought information relating to cataract procedures.

You clarified on 19th February 2020 that by "CCG cataracts carried out" you are referring to outsourced cataract procedures. You also clarified that by "CCG cataracts performed" you are referring to the complete cataract removal and replacement as one operation.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) are not used within NHS Wales, and there is no commissioning of healthcare through this route. Therefore, as per your clarification, we have provided general outsourcing numbers.

Please note that the data we have provided is from 1st April 2019 to 29th February 2020.

Please provide details, for the most recent full year available:

1. Total cost of cataracts outsourced in the year

£444,600.00

2. The number of outsourced cataracts performed

The number of outsourced procedures is withheld. Section 43 of the Act sets out an exemption for the right to know if release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (a person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). Section 43 is a qualified exemption. That is, it is subject to the public interest test.



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

To provide the number of procedures could, along with the information provided in question 1, lead to the ability to work out (an approximate figure could be obtained) of the cost per procedure. Whilst the Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency and there is an interest in the public being aware of how much money is spent and the benefits derived from that expenditure. The Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Boards ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It is therefore decided that it is not in the publics' interest to disclose this information.

3. The end date of the current agreement

31st March 2020

4. The next available tender date announcement, if known

This has recently been out to tender with a return date of 6th March 2020.
Contracts awarded and in place by 1st April 2020

5. The cities or towns where the surgeries were performed

Swansea and Carmarthen

6. Current waiting times for cataract surgery

The current waiting time for cataract surgery is 52 weeks, which remains over the current target referral to treatment time of 36 weeks. The health board is continuing to look for internal solutions to manage these waiting times and will utilise its own workforce and facilities wherever possible before decisions to commission external capacity would be approved.

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

