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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Bae Abertawe  
Swansea Bay University  
Health Board

Cadeirydd/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: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-G-035

☎ 01639 648363  
✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

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

Dear

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 29th July 2020. Your request sought information relating to COVID-19 at Morriston Hospital.

**Period: 01 January 2020 to 01 July 2020**

**Request: The following data on a weekly basis:**

**How many:**

**1. COVID-19 infected patients at the hospital**

**a. as percentage of total patients, proven by testing.**

Please see attached appendix

**2. Total patients assumed to have COVID-19, without testing**

**a. as a percentage of total patients**

Please see attached appendix

**3. COVID-19 infected patients in intensive care at the hospital**

Please see attached appendix

**a. How many wards used for this purpose**

The main COVID-19 critical care beds were utilised across 3 critical care areas (wards)



**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

#### **4. Patient deaths directly attributable to COVID-19 infection at the hospital**

Please see attached appendix

#### **5. Patient deaths assumed to be attributable to COVID-19, but not tested**

Not applicable – all patients are tested.

#### **6. Outpatients per day at the hospital during this period**

You clarified on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 that you are looking for a day by day breakdown of patients seen in Outpatients at Morriston Hospital between 01.01.20 and 01.07.20.

Please see attached appendix

#### **7. Outpatients NOT seen as a result of COVID-19**

You clarified on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 this refers to any outpatient appointments cancelled or rearranged by the hospital or patient, for any reason except COVID-19 during same time period.

The Minister for Health and Social Services announced on 13th March 2020 a number of key COVID-19 related actions NHS Wales should take. These actions included guidance to suspend a range of activity to enable dedicated capacity for COVID-19 to be built up and to protect vulnerable patients.

As a result of the Minister's announcement, SBUHB took the following action:

- Non-urgent outpatient appointments were suspended with a number of exceptions mainly in the areas of paediatrics, neonatology, ophthalmology, thyroid, oncology and renal services. Urgent outpatient activity has continued albeit adapted and delivered through different modalities using digital technology.
- Non-urgent surgical admissions and procedures were suspended, and for a 2-week period to allow intensive upskilling of theatre staff in critical care, some urgent procedures were suspended. Emergency surgery continued to be prioritised daily.

During this time, a number of different approaches have been taken to minimise the impact of COVID-19 by use of digital solutions that have enabled virtual outpatient appointments and patient reviews to be undertaken remotely. It is also important to note that some patients have chosen not to proceed with appointment or surgery during the pandemic period.

We are working within guidance provided by Welsh Government on the delivery of essential services. The essential services framework is based on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance and is further complemented by a suite of guideline documents on a service- specific level and are informed by Royal College guidance and specific condition or focus groups.

There are no services categorised as essential that have been stopped in their entirety.

It is not possible to accurately provide information on the total number of postponed or cancelled procedures at this time as our recording systems for



managing virtual consultations with national and local IT systems are still being developed.

We are in the process of making plans to safely reintroduce non-urgent procedures, based on clinical need.

**8. Number of surgical theatre procedures performed at the hospital in a normal week**

You clarified on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 that you would like a weekly average of procedures over 2019.

On average over 2019 there were 340 theatre cases a week.

**a) Please also provide number of operations *not performed* due to COVID over period 01.01.20 to 01.07.20.**

Please see question 7

**9. Number of surgical theatre procedures conducted during the above period**

Between 01.01.20 and 30.06.20 there were 5536 theatre cases undertaken at Morryston hospital.

**10. Number of in-patients at the hospital**

**a. total number of available beds**

Please see attached appendix

**11. Number of staff that have tested positive for COVID-19**

As at 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 901 staff members had tested positive for COVID-19

**a. Number tested negative**

As at 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 2671 staff members had tested negative for COVID-19

**12. Number of staff deaths directly attributable to COVID-19**

3

**13. The NORMAL total in-patient capacity of the hospital**

You clarified on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 that you would like the "pre-COVID" number. Therefore we have provided the figures for 2019 as "pre-COVID".

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 Morryston Hospital had 713 beds. This includes critical care, assessment and paediatric areas.

**14. The number now admitted as in-patients, without COVID-19**

As at 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020, there were 525 inpatients without a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Morryston Hospital.

**15. The total intensive-care capacity at the hospital**

As at 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the intensive care capacity at Morryston Hospital was 28 beds – this does not include speciality critical care beds, such as cardiac or burns.



\* Where fewer than 5 has been indicated we are unable to provide you with the exact number of patients as due to the low numbers, there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

