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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: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-F-009

☎ 01639 648363  
✉ [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Your request sought information relating to care homes and COVID-19.

We have followed Welsh Government guidance throughout the course of the pandemic. Guidance issued by Welsh Government on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 required us to notify care homes of the results of any patients who had previously had a test for COVID-19 either at the time of transfer from hospital to a care home, or in a 'timely manner' thereafter. This guidance did not set out that negative tests were required prior to transfer or admission into a residential care bed.

During the pandemic, we have adjusted our discharge processes to ensure that we were able to support the discharge of patients out of hospital beds to free up acute care capacity to support the pandemic and to also safeguard vulnerable patients from contracting COVID-19 whilst in hospital.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, a letter was received from Welsh Government requesting that all patients being discharged from hospital to a step down or care home setting be tested regardless of whether or not they were admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

The Health Board has complied with these requirements.

Some patients may be admitted to hospital more than once, therefore they will be counted separately for each occasion they are discharged. The figures also include patients admitted initially from a care home and returned there on discharge.

**1. How many patients were discharged from Swansea Bay Health Board's hospitals to care homes, between March 1, 2020, and April 15, 2020?**



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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Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

**2. Of those patients discharged, how many were tested for Covid-19 before discharge?**

26

**3. Of those patients who were tested, how many patients' results were:**

- a. Positive**
- b. Negative**
- c. Inconclusive**

Due to the low numbers involved, we cannot break this down for you into the results categorised above as 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**

