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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: 15th July 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-F-021

☎ 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 18th 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 8th 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 22nd 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.

1) How many Covid-19 outbreaks have there been in care homes in your region between March 1st and June 16th 2020?

Public Health Wales (PHW) have statutory responsibility for managing outbreaks in care homes and will hold this information.



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

2) How many care homes did you provide oxygen to as a result of Covid-19 outbreaks between:

- a) March 1st to April 15th**
- b) April 15th to June 16th**

Oxygen is not issued to care homes as stock. Oxygen is prescribed on an individual patient basis dependent on clinical need.

3) How many hospital patients were discharged to care homes between:

- a) March 1st to April 15th**
195 patients
- b) April 15th to June 16th**
175 patients

The above shows number of discharges, a patient may have been discharged on more than one occasion for separate admissions

4) How many hospital patients discharged to care homes were tested for Covid-19? Please give totals for:

- a) March 1st to April 15th**
26 patients
- b) April 15th to June 16th**
161 patients

5) How many of the test results in Q4 were:

- a) positive**
10
- b) negative**
177
- c) inconclusive/ void**
0

The above is results for the final test before a patient was discharged. Patients may have had multiple tests during the admission.

We are not able to break down the test results into date brackets, due to the low numbers involved there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed.

6) How many of the hospital patients discharged to care homes who tested positive for Covid-19 were asymptomatic?

This information is not held centrally. To obtain this information would involve a manual trawl and search of patient records which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI Act as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying



information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

7) How many Covid-19 related ambulance call-out requests did you receive from care homes between:

- a) March 1st to April 15th**
- b) April 15th to June 16th**

Swansea Bay Health Board does not hold this information. This service is provided by Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST). You can find further information on WAST and their contact details on the link below;

<https://www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk>

8) How many of the call-out requests referred to in Q6 did you send an ambulance to between:

- a) March 1st to April 15th**
- b) April 15th to June 16th**

Not applicable.

9) How many care home residents did you admit to hospital between March 1st to June 16th? Please give totals for:

- a) Those with suspected or confirmed Covid-19**
168 patients
- b) Non-Covid-19 related patients**
121 patients

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



P. a. wenger

Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

