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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: 29th May 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-E-013

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

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

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 12th May, which we treated as a Freedom of Information Act Request and which we acknowledged on 13th May 2020. Your request sought information relating to hospital discharges.

The figures below are from a "Medically Fit" discharge meeting held on 12th May 2020. Please note that the usual discharge process has been changed temporarily, in order to support the rapid discharge of patients out of hospital beds to maintain acute capacity for the COVID-19 pandemic and to safeguard patients from contracting COVID-19 whilst in hospital. This has meant working very closely with Local Authorities in expediting the discharge process.

For context, on the 12th of May there were 39 "discharge ready" patients waiting to move on to their next phase of care and 56 patients going through the discharge process. This is a total of 95 patients who were on course to be discharged from our hospitals as of 12th May.

1. Can you please provide me with the figures for how many patients are ready for discharge to a care home but are currently waiting for a care package or funding to be put in place at Neath Port Talbot, Morriston and Singleton Hospitals?

You clarified on 26th May 2020 that you are referring to patients who are being discharged to a care home permanently but cannot leave hospital until a place is available or funding is approved

5 patients were awaiting funding for placement in a nursing home.



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

5 patients were awaiting residential placement.

2. Could you also please provide me with figures for patients waiting to be discharged home from Neath Port Talbot, Morriston and Singleton Hospitals but are currently waiting on care packages to be put in place by the Local Authority?

You clarified on 26th May 2020 that you are referring to patients who may also be discharged to a care home temporarily whilst awaiting a package of care in their own home, as well as patients waiting to be discharged directly home but awaiting a package of care.

11 patients awaiting a package of care.

No patients were temporarily placed in care homes awaiting a package of care in their home on this date.

3. Are you aware of any patients being forced into care homes or back into their own homes with unpaid carers from the said hospitals in the past 12 months?

No, we are not aware of any patients being forced into care homes without the patient or - in the case that the patient lacks mental capacity to make this decision - the family's agreement, nor discharged home with families being told to provide care unless this has been agreed with the family.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Choice of Accommodation" policy has been temporarily suspended, in line with Welsh Government guidance. Therefore some patients have been transferred to interim placements until a bed in a care home of choice becomes available. This is to safeguard the patient from COVID-19 infection and to release acute capacity within our hospitals. Families are being asked if they are able to support with care at home, but they are not forced to do so. Patients are not sent home without agreement with family members to provide some care for their loved ones. Asking if families can support discharge is a normal practice outside of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

