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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

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: 9th March 2021
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-B-031

01639 648363

FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[Redacted]

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

Dear [Redacted]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 19th February 2021. Your request sought information relating to death certification costs.

1. Please will you provide details of costs associated with issuing Death Certificates for inpatient deaths leading to Cremation?

There is no charge for a doctor to complete a Medical Certification of Cause of Death. There is an £82.00 fee for completion of Form 4 cremation form, payable to the completing doctor.

The registrar will also charge a fee for a Death Certificate when the death is registered, this is the "official" Death Certificate and is often needed for legal or financial purposes. This fee is currently £11.00 per copy and paid directly to the registrar by the family or next of kin.

2. Have any changes been made to Death Certification during the Coronavirus Pandemic for NHS inpatient hospital deaths - please will you provide details both prior to, and following, any Coronavirus changes in the Death Certification process.

There has only been one adjustment made to the Death Certification process. Previously, the cremation form was required to be completed by two doctors, and both would receive the £82.00 fee for completion of Form 4 and Form 5. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for Form 5 completion has been abolished, so a second doctor is not needed and no fee is charged.

3. a. Are any NHS Hospital Medical Professionals paid in a private capacity for completing any Hospital Death Certificates, please provide details.

No. The only monies received by medical professionals for completing Death Certification as stated in question 1.



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

b. Are all such private fees/payments made, accepted by the Medical Professional involved? Please can you indicate how many payments are not accepted?

The Health Board would not hold information on the number of payments accepted and not accepted by the medical professionals involved. However we can inform you that sometimes a medical professional will refuse a fee, for example in the case of a death of a child or for religious reasons. These are usually the exception rather than the rule.

c. Where such payments are not accepted by the Medical Professional completing the death certificates, are the costs reduced to the family/estate of the deceased patient.

The £82.00 fee is paid to the doctor by the nominated funeral director and re-billed to the family. If a fee is not taken, the funeral director would be informed that no fee is needed. It would be the funeral director who would pass any charges on to the family, not the health board.

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

