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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: 25th June 2021
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-E-001

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 6th May 2021. I apologise for the delay in responding. Your request sought information relating to the Sprinter Synairgen trial.

The Health Board had previously corresponded with you outside of FOIA and it had informed you that 47 patients had been screened for the trial. However, I can confirm this was inaccurate, as the 47 patients had only been pre-screened, rather than screened.

Your follow up questions were as follows:

- 1. Did you attempt to enrol 47 patients into the Sprinter Synairgen trial, but only 2 signed up?**
- 2. Or, were the 47 patients the total of patients over all trials?**
- 3. How many have now been enrolled into the Sprinter trial to date?**

We are withholding the information you requested and have engaged Section 22A of the FOIA, which applies where clinical trials are in progress. It provides an exemption for information obtained from a programme of research (such as this clinical trial), as long as:

1. the programme is still under way;
2. there is an intention to publish a report of the research; and
3. disclosure of the information would or would be likely to prejudice the research programme, the interests of participants in the programme, or a public authority holding or intending to publish a report of the research.



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

Taking each in turn:

1. the clinical trial which you are referring to is still clearly under way and will continue for some time. It is a multi-country, multi-site trial recruiting Covid 19 patients in circumstances where hospitalised patient numbers are changing in ways it is difficult to predict and hence the date on which the trial will be complete.
2. the results of the clinical trial will be published at the end of the trial. This has been contractually agreed.
3. publication of the requested information at this point would prejudice or alternatively would be likely to prejudice:
 - i. the research programme;
 - ii the interests of any or all of the patients participating in the research programme; or
 - iii. the interests of the Research Parties.

The Health Board acknowledges that there is a public interest in transparency of how research is being carried out.

However, there is a strong public interest in not publishing the trial data in a way which could undermine the research process whilst it is ongoing. The Health Board should be given time to present its conclusions, without the premature disclosure of information which may allow others to undermine any conclusions by criticising the data which underpins it or presenting their own conclusions based on that data.

On balance in this case, the Health Board considers that the public interest in favour of disclosure is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption in this case.

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

