



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

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 neu'r Saesneg. Atebir gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn y Gymraeg, ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English. Welsh language correspondence will be replied to in Welsh, and this will not lead to a delay.

## **Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request** **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 22-H-052**

Please note that the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Cymru) is hosted by Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and commissioned by the Emergency Ambulance Service Committee (EASC), a joint committee of all health boards in Wales.

### **You asked:**

- 1. Please provide a complete full, and complete unredacted copy of the information on the full world leading analysis that proved that the air ambulance needs to locate to North Wales from Welshpool base**

I can confirm that the Health Board holds this information, however this with a view to future publication and therefore falls within the remit of Section 22 FOIA. Section 22 states that information is exempt if it is intended that the information held by the public authority will be published at a future date.

On the use of Section 22 exemption however, the Health Board is also aware that it should be 'reasonable' to withhold releasing this information until its intended publication date. This exemption also must also take into account whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The Health Board acknowledges that publicly-funded research data should be openly available to the maximum extent possible and we accept that sharing of data can be used to increase public awareness and scrutiny.

However the Health Board has also considered the risks associated with the release of this detailed analysis data and considers it 'too early' to release in its raw form. This is because it would be in the absence of appropriate review by the Health Board, which will include discussions of strengths and limitations and the validation of the work prior to publication.

Therefore when considering the competing arguments we are satisfied that disclosure under FOIA would not be in the public interest at this time. Additional time sought by the Health Board prior to publication is necessary to enable a thorough process of review.



**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

In the meantime we can share a recent presentation at a recent meeting, providing an overview of the latest position and this is attached for your information.

- 2. All copies and analysis that will have been made/done in the last 5 years regarding the service and the areas it covers from the Welshpool base including and where the bases should be located. These need to be in full and complete copies with no information removed**

See Question 1

- 3. Copy of the formula, questions used to produce this latest proposed outcome to relocate**

See Question 1

- 4. Copy of any reports/analysis into the negative impact of moving to the base from Welshpool**

See Question 1

- 5. Copy of any positive reports regarding the base staying in Welshpool**

See Question 1

- 6. What saving will be made by move and a full cost analysis of how moving the service will make it more affective financially**

See Question 1

- 7. Copy of maps the services cover now in from the Welshpool base**

See Question 1

- 8. Copy of maps the service would cover if base were moved to North Wales**

See Question 1

- 9. Copy of map that shows the areas that are worst served now by the service**

See Question 1

- 10. Copy of the map that will show the areas that will be worse off for coverage once the service moves from Welshpool**

See Question 1

- 11. How will moving the service impact financially the services**

There will be no impact financially.

- 12. Is the base being moved for financial reasons**

No, the proposal suggests that moving the base could increase the number of patients receiving a service and would not be for financial reasons.

- 13. Please provide the figures for all incidents the air ambulance has covered in Powys/Mid Wales/Wales/Shropshire over the last 10 years (Accident, RTC, Illness, how many children under 18)**



I can confirm that the information you are seeking is held on the EMRTS website. Under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (information accessible by other means), we are not required to provide information in response to a request if the information is already reasonably accessible to you. May I therefore recommend that you look at this link to obtain the information you require within the EMRTS annual reports dated from 2015 onwards: <https://emrts.nhs.wales/about-us/key-documents1/>

**(a) Were these attends by air or rapid response road vehicles or both (a breakdown into the statistics )**

As above this is within the annual reports related to mission data.

**14. A breakdown on fly times from Welshpool base and the response tie for rapid cars to each area (Newton, Llanidloes, Knighton, Llandridnod Wells, Builth Wells, Aberystwyth)**

The Health Board does not hold this information.

**15. If the base is moved what would be the flight time to each of these locations be from the North Wales base**

This is an all Wales service which utilises vehicles and aircraft - we do not hold specific information to respond to this query.

**16. A breakdown of all the times and dates the air ambulance was unable to attend due to weather issues over the last 5 years**

We can confirm the number of times the air ambulance was unable to attend due to weather issues were as follows:

2017	43
2018	44
2019	39
2020	48
2021	77

We are unable to provide you with the level of detail you are seeking as to the times and exact dates as there is a potential risk of identifying the individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under 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. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

**17. Moving the service to North Wales could have serious implications on the use of the air ambulance and road vehicles in adverse weather conditions in North Wales even when there is no adverse weather conditions in Powys/Mid Wales/other areas it covers now, as we often see very different weather in many parts of Wales. What plans have been made to overcome this? And has this been considered when doing the analysis?**

See question 1.



**18. A list of the names and location of all hospital that the air ambulance has flown patients to in the last 5 years**

Please find attached – appendix 1

**19. Are there any parts of Wales /England that is covered now that won't be covered if the service moves to North Wales**

No.

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