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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Our Ref: JP/rmb/FOI 19328

Direct Line: 01633 435956
Email: FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk

9 October 2019

Mr Bleddyn ap Dafydd
request-604054-b02c7f0e@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr ap Dafydd

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, received on 17 September 2019, reference number **FOI 19328**. I can confirm that the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has completed a search of its records and has established that it does hold information falling within the confines of your request. Please find below the response to your request.

I write about a Freedom of Information request on District Nurses working in GP surgeries in your Board's area. If possible, I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions please:

1. Who are district nurses answerable to - the Health Board or the GP?

District nursing staff are employed by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. The staff are line managed by the Senior Nurse and are professionally responsible to the Divisional Nurse and, ultimately, the Director of Nursing. The District Nursing Teams have developed good professional working relationships with all of our GP partners and form part of the multi-disciplinary team supporting their local community.

2. How many district nurses are currently on rota within your Health Board area - both FT and PT?

The Health Board has 23 district nursing teams working across the Health Board's area, with 140 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) full time staff, and 78.96 WTE part time staff.

3. What is the chain of command with regard to district nurses working in GP clusters?

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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board

As per our response to Question 1 above, the district nursing teams have a professional and managerial line of accountability within the Health Board, but work closely with the GP practices within their Neighbourhood Care Network (NCN) footprint.

4. What procedures do district nurses have to follow when responding to emergency care in their area?

If a district nurse is concerned about a patient, they have a number of options depending on the severity of the situation and their clinical judgement. They would speak to the relevant GP in the first instance, and if the patient's condition had deteriorated, an arrangement would be made to admit the patient to hospital.

If necessary, district nurses can also refer patients to the Frailty Team if an intermediate level of care is required. Ultimately if the patient's condition was such that an emergency level of intervention was required, an ambulance would be requested for emergency admission to hospital.

5. Can individual GPs and surgeries ask for district nurses to attend emergency care?

Yes, GPs can request a visit from a district nurse, after which the most appropriate care would be implemented.

I hope that you find this information useful. If you are not satisfied that all of the information you have requested has been provided, or because of the way your request has been handled, you have the right to request a review. This would be looked into in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidelines, which state that a request for review should be received within two months of you receiving the Health Board's response to your request for information. The ICO also recommends that public authorities carry out internal reviews within 20 working days. Please contact Richard Bevan, Board Secretary, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Headquarters, St Cadoc's Hospital, Lodge Road, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 3XQ, email: Richard.Bevan@wales.nhs.uk in the first instance if you wish to request a review.

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you have the right to take your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Fax: 029 2067 8399

Email: wales@ico.gsi.gov.uk

In the meantime, if you have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact Richard Bevan on the contact details provided above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'P'.

Judith Paget

Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive

