



Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14532

Nicola Lund
request-705264-9252aa16@whatdotheyknow.com

December 2020

Dear Ms Lund,

ATISN 14532 – Field Hospital Spending in Wales for Covid19

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 12 November. You requested information regarding the field hospitals, specifically:

1. To provide the projections given to Welsh Government upon which the decision to spend £117 million on field hospitals was based, as quoted by BBC
2. Confirm the figure of 46 patients admitted in total as provided by BBC

We clarified in our acknowledgement of your request (dated 16 November 2020) that the BBC indicated that the decision to spend £166 million was quoted and that we have interpreted the '46 patients admitted in total' as referring to the total number of patients cared for in the Dragon's Heart Hospital.

Our response

With regards to your first question: The investment of £166m, was made available to set up 19 field hospitals across Wales and not just for the Dragon's Heart Hospital. Welsh Government have subsequently also made an additional £33m available to Cardiff & Vale University Health Board to set up a modular building at the UHW site to provide additional surge capacity following the closure of Dragon's Heart Hospital.

While the Minister for Health and Social Care has a role to set the strategic direction for health services in Wales and hold the NHS to account, it remains the responsibility of local health boards to plan and deliver services at a local level to meet the needs of their resident population and to ensure these services continue to deliver safe and timely care to the communities they serve.

The Minister for Health and Social Services provide a [written statement](#) on 29 September in which he provided details on additional bed capacity plans for the remainder of 2020/2021.

In support of local planning, the table below sets out Welsh Government's interpretation of the COVID only capacity that would be required for a second peak, the position is based on national modelling outputs and is intended to provide contingency cover.

Health Board	COVID CAPACITY REQUIREMENT - 2nd Peak Eventuality	
	Critical Care	Acute Beds
All Wales Requirement	350	5,000
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	73	942
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	78	1,110
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board	56	796
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	51	709
Hywel Dda University Health Board	46	613
Powys Teaching Health Board		210
Swansea Bay University Health Board	46	621

With regards to your second question: We do not hold data which allows us to provide a total number of patients admitted during the period a field hospital has been operational so this figure will have been provided by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. We have previously received confirmation from the Health Board that this figure is correct.

The figure of '46 patients admitted in total' relates to the total number of patients cared for in the Dragon's Heart Hospital from when it opened to receive patients in April, to when the last patient left the site in June. The site was then placed on standby until it was handed back to the WRU in November. The total number of patients admitted to all field hospital sites across Wales would be higher.

For your information, there are currently three operational field hospitals in Wales; Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB have Ysbyty Seren in Bridgend, Betsi Cadwaladar UHB have Ysbyty Deeside and Hywel Dda UHB have Ysbyty Enfys Samuel in Llanelli.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
CARDIFF,
CF10 3NQ
Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
CHESHIRE,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Warren'.

Jeanette Warren

Government Business Manager
Government and Corporate Business Team