



Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 14532

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

January 2021

Dear Ms Lund,

Complaint in respect of ATISN 14532 – Field Hospital Spending in Wales for Covid19

In your Freedom of Information request dated 12 November 2020, you asked the following:

- Please can you provide me with the projections given to Welsh Government upon which the decision to spend £117 million - as quoted by BBC - on field hospitals was based?
- Can you also confirm the figure of 46 patients admitted in total as provided by BBC?

We wrote to you on 17 November acknowledging your request, and clarifying that the actual cost quoted by the BBC was £166 million and that the figure of 46 was the number of patients admitted to the Dragon's Heart Field Hospital in Cardiff. We confirmed that, unless you contacted us by 19 November, we would proceed on the basis that your requests were as follows:

- *To provide the projections given to Welsh Government upon which the decision to spend £166 million on field hospitals was based, as quoted by BBC*
- *Confirm the figure of 46 patients admitted to the Dragon's Heart Hospital in total as provided by BBC*

We issued our response letter to you on 10 December. In our response, we provided details of the capacity planning projections for critical care and acute beds across Wales, broken down by region for the seven Health Boards. We confirmed that £166 million was made available to set up nineteen (19) field hospitals across Wales. Our response also confirmed that 46 patients received care in the Dragon's Heart Hospital during the period that it was operational.

Your email of 14 December requests this internal review on the grounds that when you used the word 'projections' you meant 'projected deaths', and were interested in the origin of such information. I have carefully read your original request several



times. I have also read the BBC article which I believe is still online at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54907692>

It would not have been obvious to me that your request referred to “projected deaths”. The Field Hospitals were set up in response to projected bed capacities in the critical and intensive care units of Welsh hospitals. Those were the projections that we provided to you, and I am satisfied that that was the correct response.

Having conducted a review of your request, I confirm that the correct process was followed and the information that you requested was provided. Consequentially I do not uphold your complaint.

I understand that the Welsh Government is also treating your email of 14 December as a new request for information (relating to projected deaths), and we will write to you separately about that request under reference ATISN 14669.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745

Fax: 01625 524 510

Email: to casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ
Telephone: 0845 6010987 (local rate)
Email: ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Probert CEng FIET MIOB
Deputy Director, HSS Government and Corporate Business