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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

Dyddiad/Date: 24th April 2013

(01639) 683328
FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Ref: 13-D-005

Paul Ogden [request-156287-
e7f424e7@whatdotheyknow.com]

Corporate Administration
ABM Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Dear Mr Ogden

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 8th April 2013. Your request sought information relating to Public Health/Welfare Funerals undertaken by the NHS.

We have responded to similar requests for this type information previously and have attached these for your information. I hope this is helpful to your study but if you have any further queries or questions please do not hesitate to 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

Steve Combe
Board Secretary



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

Dyddiad/Date: 1st September 2011

☎ (01639) 683328
✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Ref: 11-H-008

[REDACTED]

Corporate Administration
ABM Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 11th August 2011. Your request sought information relating to public health funerals.

You will recall that Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust was formed on 1st April 2008 as a result of the merger of the former Swansea and Bro Morgannwg NHS Trusts. Subsequently, there was a further reorganisation resulting on 1st October 2009 in the former Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Local Health Boards and ABM University NHS Trust to form the ABM University Health Board.

The Health Board is unable to provide the information for the last 10 years in a single format. This is because historically ABMU's predecessor organisations had differing arrangements in place during this time. Therefore to obtain this information would involve a manual trawl and search of records which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI Act as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

I can however provide information from 2008/09 and this is as follows:

- 1) **How much does it currently cost the Health Board per year to pay for services associated with burials and cremation? Please could you also provide figures for those costs for the last ten years - from 2000 to present?**

Bwrdd Iechyd ABM yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board
Pencadlys ABM / ABM Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR. Ffôn / Tel: (01656) 752752

www.abm.wales.nhs.uk

Sometimes reimbursement can be received from social services or from banks on the settlement of estates, therefore the figures below relate to the actual net cost to the Health Board, after reimbursements.

2008/09	£9,032
2009/10	£16,019
2010/11	£16,297
2011 to date	£11,884

2) How many public health funerals has the Health Board provided each year, over the last ten years?

2008/09	17
2009/10	23
2010/11	27
2011 to date	8

3) How much did it cost the Health Board each year, over the last ten years, to provide public health funerals?

See Question 1 above.

4) We understand that each health authority records the reasons why they have to provide public health funerals. Please could you give us the reasons why your authority provided each of them over the last ten years – so from 2000 to present (e.g. no next of kin/family couldn't pay/family refused to pay.)

The reason for the Health Board providing public health funerals is due to the following:

- 60% of the cases deceased do not have a next of kin,
- 25% of cases, the family are estranged and will not take responsibility for the funeral and
- 15% of cases are not able to pay for the funeral.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

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Yours sincerely



Steve Combe

Board Secretary



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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

Dyddiad/Date: 6th August 2012

(01639) 683328
FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Ref: 12-G-014

Corporate Administration
ABM Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 11th July 2012. Your request sought information relating to the following:

For each year from 2008 to present, I would like to request the following:

- 1. The number of funerals arranged and paid for by the health board**

2008/09	17
2009/10	23
2010/11	27
2011/12	15

- 2. The total cost to the health board of funerals**

Sometimes reimbursement can be received from social services or from banks on the settlement of estate, therefore the figures below rates to actual net cost to the Health Board, after reimbursements.

2008/09	£9,032
2009/10	£16,019
2010/11	£16,297
2011/12	£13,479

3. For each funeral, I would like to know:
- its individual cost
 - where the funeral took place
 - whether the deceased was buried or cremated. And if they were buried, where were they buried?
 - The age and gender of the deceased
 - whether or not the health board was able to recoup the cost of the funeral (through, for example, family/next of kin or the deceased's estate)
 - If the cost of the funeral was repaid to the health board, where this payment came from (for example, family/next of kin or the deceased's estate)

The Health Board holds information of the nature you are seeking however to break this down to each individual we believe should be withheld under Section 41 of the Act. Section 41 of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know where the information requested was provided to the public authority in confidence. The component which is applicable relates to the disclosure of the information would give rise to an actionable breach of confidence. In other words, if the Health Board disclosed the information being sought this could lead to their identification which would be unfair and inappropriate.

A duty of confidentiality does continue after the death of an individual to whom that duty is owed. Where there is a legally enforceable duty of confidentiality owed to a living individual, after death it can be enforced by the deceased's personal representative.

We can however provide the following information which may help you:

	Average Cost of a Funeral	Costs Recouped
2008/09	£1219	55%
2009/10	£1184	47%
2010/11	£1286	63%
2011/12	£1253	47%


I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

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Yours sincerely



Steve Combe
Board Secretary

