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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Our ref: **FOI 23-446**

Wednesday 06 September 2023

Martyn Dewar

Sent by email to: request-1016623-b748d2ca@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Martyn Dewar

Thank you for your request to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 21 August 2023.

Your request

You requested the following:

For information held by your NHS Trust (health board) about the food production methods and catering procedures employed within the Trust's healthcare facilities.

For the purposes of clarity, I am referring to food that is prepared for, or otherwise supplied to patients by the Trust. This would likely, predominantly, be food supplied to in-patients; but it may well also include any restaurants supplied by your catering department (e.g., cafés, where supplied).

Food Production Methods

1. Does the Trust produce food for patients in-house? If so, please clarify whether this is carried out on a central site (e.g., central production unit), or within each individual hospital. If there is a mixture of both, please clarify, where possible.
2. If food is not produced in-house, please provide details on whether it is produced by a third-party facilities contractor (e.g., under a PFI agreement), or purchased from external sources, in frozen (or chilled) format.

Where possible, for RFI 1 and 2, please also clarify the arrangements for delivery-to-patient (e.g., is the food supplied to wards and then reheated on-site, or is some other reheating method used).

3. For in-patient meals, what is the average cost per meal, to the Trust?

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan
Pencadlys, Ysbyty Sant Cadog
Ffordd Y Lodj, Caerllion, Casnewydd NP18 3XQ

☎ 01633 436 700 **f** BwrddIechydPrifysgol **🐦** BIPAneurinBevan

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg heb oedi.
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan.

Dyfodol  **Clinigol**
Clinical Futures

☎ 01633 436 700 **f** AneurinBevanHealthBoard **🐦** AneurinBevanUHB

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and we will respond in Welsh without delay.
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board.

Recipe and Cooking Method Information

4. In the event that the Trust produces food in-house, please supply a copy of the recipes, and cooking / preparation methods utilised by the catering department for standardised food items. I would imagine that this information would be readily available, owing to standardisation of menu items.

This would include information on ingredients, preparation steps, cooking temperatures, and any relevant nutritional considerations (e.g., it might be noted on menus that certain items are suitable for those on restricted diets, or that some menu items have specific allergens).

5. If you do not produce food in-house, please confirm whether you hold standardised information as to what items are available (e.g., menus, and nutritional / allergen information), and supply a copy, where possible.

Our response

1. Patient meals are produced in house apart from three of our sites that use a mixture of Cook Freeze (purchased from an external supplier) and freshly produced food items.
2. We utilise external suppliers for Cook Freeze and for Multi Portion main meals. Other items are prepared and cooked using traditional fresh or frozen ingredients. For delivery to patients, all food items are prepared, cooked, and regenerated in central Kitchens and are transported to wards using heated food conveyors.
3. £2.44.
4. Please find attached a copy of our current standard adult menu and our allergen and recipe file.

All our menus and recipes are nutritionally assessed by our Dietetic, Speech and Language department to ensuring special dietary needs are met, which includes:

- Allergen specific menus to allow for food intolerances.
- Level 4, 5 and 6 diets for patients with Dysphagia.

5. Please refer to our answer to question 4.

Next steps

If you are not satisfied that 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 40 days of you receiving the Health Board's response to your request for information.

Please contact Rani Dash, Director of Corporate Governance, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Headquarters, St Cadoc's Hospital, Lodge Road, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 3XQ, email: ABB.BoardSecretary@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: 0330 414 6421
Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicola Prygodzicz
Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive