

Reference:	FOI.12976.23
Subject:	COVID-19 procedures
Date of Request:	26 October 2023

Requested:

I would like to submit three FOIs regarding the conduct of hospitals within the Health Boards, during the period of 24 months from, and including, March 2020. These are with regards to hospital admissions; patient testing; facilities for staff.

1. How many patients were transferred between each hospital site for admission due to Covid-19 each month for a period of 24 months from and including March 2020?
2. During this period, how were patients tested, for the Covid-19 virus? How frequent were these tests? What was the exact procedure in these instances?
3. What facilities were made available for hospital staff to change and/or shower before, during, and after their shifts for a period of 24 months from and including March 2020?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it aimed to avoid the transfer of patients between sites, as was the case with staff. Once the Field Hospitals were operational, there was set criteria for the transfer of post positive COVID-19 patients to them. However, in emergency situations, there may have been instances where patients were transferred between hospitals for treatment. Therefore, the UHB has identified that two thousand and seventy-four (2,074) patients were transferred between its hospitals, for any reason, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the period 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2022.
2. The UHB does not hold all of the information requested as during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were many changes to national testing protocols. The UHB followed the guidance and protocols issued by Welsh Government (WG) and Public Health Wales (PHW) throughout the requested period, some of which have since been superseded and are no longer held.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. We therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information Team at WG and PHW, who may be able to help you further with your enquiry. Contact details are as follows:-

Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales or alternatively, you can contact: Freedom of Information Officer, Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

foi.phw@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: Freedom of Information Office, Public Health Wales, Floor 3, 2Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

Furthermore, the information held by the UHB is already within the public domain. Therefore, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information is accessible by another means. The UHB has provided hyperlinks below to information that relates to your request, that is accessible on the internet:

[COVID-19 testing strategy | GOV.WALES](#)

[Operating framework for urgent and planned services in hospital settings during COVID-19 \(gov.wales\)](#)

[patient-testing-framework-guidance.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

[42350 Community testing framework English \(gov.wales\)](#)

[COVID-19 patient testing framework \(WHC/2022/011\) | GOV.WALES](#)

3. The UHB provides within the table overleaf, the shower and changing facilities available to staff at its four (4) acute hospital sites, during the requested period.

Hospital	Facility
Bronglais General Hospital	Portable shower block erected
Glangwili General Hospital	Shower block erected outside Accident and Emergency (A&E)
Prince Philip Hospital	Staff showers were available in a portacabin outside Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMAU)
Withybush General Hospital	Male and Female showers made available for staff above Acute Clinical Decision Unit (ACDU). Facilities also available on Ward 11 and A&E.

Additionally, staff showers were/are also available across all of its ITU Departments and at Ysbyty Enfys Carreg Las and Ysbyty Enfys Selwyn Samuel Centre Field Hospitals.