

Reference:	FOI.10925.23
Subject:	Discharge delays, social care and hospital beds
Date of Request:	9 February 2023

Requested:

1. Could you let me know the number of qualified care workers employed with Hywel Dda or contractors commissioned by Hywel Dda for each of the last five years and further back if easy?
2. Could you also let me know the total number of hospital beds available to people across the Hywel Dda area for each of the last five years so I can see how things have changed? Potentially you could also provide figures for 2010 and 2015?
3. Could you repeat the question above exactly but for Bronglais in particular?
4. Could you inform me how many care homes there are in the Hywel Dda area? And compare this with 2010, 15 and 20. I'm aware this is a council matter and I will ask them too but surely you also have a record of where your patients can go if they need care.
5. However it is most common for it to be measured, could you provide me with any data on discharge delays? It would be good to see an average figure for each year for the last five or 10 (if possible). But I'm not sure how the data is compiled, so perhaps you could guide me.

Clarification

1. What I mean is social care workers. Assuming there are records of this at the health board. I know it's not your responsibility but as health authority I wondered if you might have data.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for questions 2, 3 and 5, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

For questions 2 and 3, the data requested for the 2010 calendar year is not easily accessible. For question 5, the recording of discharge delays has changed numerous times over the requested period and comparable data is also not easily accessible. Therefore, in order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all computer systems, to identify the information that fulfils your request, as this is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all of the information requested. Social Workers are employed by the Local Authorities (LA).

We would therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information Teams within each LA in the UHB's footprint, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. For ease, their details are set out below:-

Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk

Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

However under Section 16 of the FOIA , the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of both substantive and bank staff employed by the UHB, that held a registration number with Social Care Wales, as at 31 March for the years 2019 to 2022, and as at 20 February 2023.

Period	Hold a Social worker role	Hold a non-social worker role
31 March 2019	14	0
31 March 2020	20	3
31 March 2021	24	5
31 March 2022	22	30
20 February 2023	26	24

2. & 3. The UHB provides within the table below, the average number of hospital beds that were available across the UHB's area and those specifically relating to Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), during the 2015 and 2018 to 2022 calendar years.

Calendar year	Average number	BGH average number
2015	1202.5	138.5
2018	1249.75	161.9
2019	1247.4	155.5
2020	1227.25	155
2021	1155.2	159.4
2022	1132.2	162

Please note:- The data provided above is based on the ward bed numbers provided to the Informatics Department recorded by the Services on a monthly basis. These figures do not include Field Hospitals, flex/surge bed openings or unplanned bed closures throughout the month.

Additionally, further information relating to your request is already within the public domain and is accessible via another means and a Section 21 exemption has been applied.

Data on bed numbers is also available on the Welsh Government (WG) StatsWales website, which can be accessed via the link below:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Activity/NHS-Beds/nhsbeds-by-organisation-site>

4. The UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA, as some information relating to your request is already within the public domain and is accessible via another means.

All care homes in Wales have to be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). You can search its website for registered providers in a specific area. For ease of reference, a link to the CIW website has been provided:

[Home | Care Inspectorate Wales](#)

Further information on Residential Care Homes located within the UHB's geographical area covering Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire, is also available via the attached link:

[Care Homes Wales | Find a Wales Care Home | 7390 Reviews](#)

5. A Section 12 exemption and advice and assistance under Section 16 has been applied, as explained at the beginning of our response. The UHB has provided a copy of the slide presented at the UHB's Planned Care update to the Executive Team, detailing the numbers of delays and the reasons, as at 31 January 2023, at Attachment 1.

Additionally, under the Section 21 exemption of the FOIA, further information relating to your request that may be of use to you, is already within the public domain, and accessible via another means.

Historical Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) data is available on the Welsh Government (WG) StatsWales website, which can be accessed via the link below:

[Delays by organisation and percent of NHS beds \(gov.wales\)](#)