

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.5172.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Field hospital spend
<b>Date of Request:</b>	29 January 2021

**Requested:**

1. Of the 2020/21 £1.2 million running costs for Pembrokeshire's COVID-19 field hospital, Ysbyty Carreg Las, how much has been paid by Hywel Dda to Bluestone Resorts Limited (Bluestone) for revenue / running costs / rent on a monthly basis since set up?
  - a. How much has been incurred so far in total?
  - b. What is the estimated cost for 2021/22 financial year?
  - c. What percentage is staff costs and what is the total figure?
  - d. Are cost recoverable via grant or Welsh Government funding?
  
2. Of the £0.4 million running costs for Ceredigion's COVID-19 hospitals Ysbyty Enfys Aberteifi and Aberystwyth, how much has been paid by Hywel Dda to Ceredigion County Council for revenue / running costs / rent on a monthly basis since set up?
  - a. How much has been incurred so far in total?
  - b. What is the estimated cost for 2021/22 financial year?
  - c. What percentage is staff costs and what is the total figure?
  - d. Are cost recoverable via grant or Welsh Government funding?

**Clarified:**

The figures provided refer to running costs identified in a previous FOI, for the field hospitals in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. Please provide monthly figures, from set up to date, as well as forecast for 2021/22, if possible.

**Response:**

As the information requested from Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) relates to third parties, the UHB considers that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), Section 43 applies, as answering would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, disclosure of which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, in this case the provider listed above. Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has contacted Bluestone and Ceredigion County Council (CCC) requesting their views and have considered as follows:

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services. Private sector bodies engaging in commercial activities with the public sector must expect some information about those activities to be disclosed. CCC has consented to the disclosure of the requested information.

**Against Disclosure:** Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and cause substantial harm to the agencies as it would disclose their pricing and products/services provided to the UHB, and this would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

**Decision:** The UHB has considered the views of both third parties and considers that it is in the public interest to provide the requested information, showing the UHB's commitment to openness and transparency. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a matter of high publicity and has attracted attention from the public, along with opinion, both positive and negative towards the need for field hospitals and the speed at which they were assembled. It is therefore the UHB's opinion that it is within the public's interest to have the UHB's expenditure on field hospitals disclosed and accessible for review.

1a. The UHB confirms that the actual invoiced costs at the date of your request was £4,322,500 excluding VAT; please note that all amounts detailed within the FOI response are excluding VAT.

The UHB's estimated monthly expenditure, remunerated to Bluestone for Ysbyty Carreg Las for the 2020/21 financial year is provided within the table below.

Financial year 2020/21	Monthly costs (exc VAT)
April 2020	£537,500
May 2020	£730,000
June 2020	£600,833
July 2020	£570,833
August 2020	£424,167
September 2020	£289,166
October 2020	£292,500
November 2020	£292,500
December 2020	£292,500
January 2021	£292,500
February 2021	£292,500
March 2021	£292,500

The higher costs earlier in the financial year are representative of estimated monthly costs at the time. At the time of your request, the UHB had not finalised its expenditure for February and March 2021, therefore the costs provided are estimates. The contracted costs were renegotiated mid-way through the year, this resulted in an overall reduction in expenditure of £67,200.00 plus VAT per week, which has been reflected over the remaining months.

The UHB confirms that there are additional costs of £1.35 million incurred for the reinstatement of the adventure centre, which will be incorporated within 2020/21 costs.

2a. The UHB confirms that the actual invoiced costs at the date of your request was £36,456 excluding VAT.

The Estimated costs remunerated to CCC for Ysbyty Enfys Aberteifi and Aberystwyth, are provided within the table below, by month, during the period April 2020 to March 2021.

<b>Financial year 2020/21</b>	<b>Monthly costs (exc VAT)</b>
April 2020	£0.00
May 2020	£0.00
June 2020	£0.00
July 2020	£0.00
August 2020	£11,000
September 2020	£16,000
October 2020	£16,000
November 2020	£16,000
December 2020	£16,000
January 2021	£16,000
February 2021	£52,000
March 2021	£20,000

The UHB has received updated information from CCC confirming that some rates had not previously been accounted for; these have now been reflected in the uplift shown in February 2021.

Please note, the information provided is based on current forecasted costs for the financial year 2020/21, which includes all revenue running costs associated with Ysbyty Enfys Carreg Las Field Hospital, Ysbyty Enfys Aberteifi and Aberystwyth Field Hospitals. They reflect costs on an accruals basis i.e. costs may be accounted for before cash is paid out to Bluestone and Ceredigion County Council.

1. & 2b. The UHB confirms that it is anticipating costs of £456,600 excluding VAT for Ysbyty'r Enfys Carreg Las, as the adventure centre is due to be returned to Bluestone on 26 April 2021, thus terminating the contract. The UHB does not anticipate any costs for the CCC field hospitals in the 2021/22 financial year.
1. & 2c. The UHB confirms that it does not hold a breakdown of staff costs; this information is not available from recharges from Bluestone and CCC.
1. & 2d. The UHB confirms that all Health Boards in Wales have been allocated additional funding from Welsh Government (WG) to manage the COVID-19 response. The funding is not specific to the field hospitals but the UHB has been able to utilise some of this funding to offset the cost of the field hospitals.