

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.16316.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Hospice Funding and End of Life Care Provision
<b>Date of Request:</b>	8 January 2025

**Requested:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request the following information regarding hospice funding and end-of-life care provision within your Health Board for the financial year 2023-2024 (or the most recent complete financial year available):

1. Statutory Funding:
  - The total amount of statutory funding allocated to hospices within your jurisdiction.
  - The proportion of statutory funding as a percentage of total hospice expenditure (for each hospice separately, if applicable).
2. Service-Level Agreements (SLAs):
  - Details of any SLAs or commissioning arrangements between the Health Board and hospices, including the scope of services covered (e.g., inpatient beds, hospice-at-home).
3. Bed Provision:
  - a. The total number of dedicated palliative care/hospice beds available within your Health Board area, categorised by inpatient and other types of care (e.g., respite, end-of-life).
  - b. The average cost per day of the dedicated palliative care/hospice beds? Including nursing, medical and pharmacy diagnostic costs.
  - c. The average cost per day of general acute medical ward beds in a health board hospital, general community hospital bed and specialist palliative care bed.
  - d. Any projections or assessments on the adequacy of current bed numbers relative to demand.
4. Funding Formula:
  - Details of how your Health Board allocates funding to hospices, including whether any specific formulas or population-based methods are applied.
5. Patient Preferences and Outcomes:
  - a. Any available data or reports on patient preferences for place of death (e.g., home, hospice, hospital) and how these are factored into service provision.
  - b. Outcomes or performance metrics used to evaluate hospice and end-of-life care services.
6. Future Planning:
  - Plans to address any identified shortfall in hospice funding, capacity, or services.

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does not have any statutory funding allocated to hospices.
2. The UHB currently commissions with three (3) providers for Hospice at Home, namely:
  - Marie Curie
  - Paul Sartori
  - Severn Hospice

Additionally, the UHB can confirm that its current commissioned Hospice at Home services provide a hands-on care approach and supports the patients within their own home. The aim of this care is to support patients to live as well as they can, for as long as they can, within the constraints of a life limiting illness.

- 3a. There are four (4) dedicated palliative care beds in Ty Bryngwyn Hospice, Carmarthenshire.
- 3b. For the financial year 2023/24, the average cost of a palliative care bed in the UHB was one thousand, one hundred and forty-four pounds and seventy-three pence (£1,144.73) per day.
- 3c. The UHB provides, within the table below, the average cost per day of Acute, Community and Palliative Care beds, as of the financial year 2023/24.

Hospital bed type	Cost per day
Acute	£640.57
Community	£386.74
Palliative Care	Please see response to 3b.

- 3d. The UHB does not hold the information requested.
- 4. The UHB is part of NHS Wales and is an integrated Local Health Board responsible for the planning and provision of primary, community and in hospital services, based on the needs of the local community across three (3) counties. NHS Wales does not commission care in the same way as NHS England and therefore, the UHB does not hold the information in the way it is requested. The UHB provides the four (4) dedicated palliative care beds within its core services and has an allocated budget that covers all staff members.
- 5a. The UHB adheres to the All-Wales Care Decisions for the Last Days of Life Guidance, which is available on the NHS Wales Executive website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

[All Wales Care Decisions for the Last Days of Life Guidance - NHS Wales Executive](#)

Additionally, patient preferences for place of death are captured through Advance Care Plans (ACP) and are recorded on the Welsh Clinical Portal (WCP) system, which are flagged on GP records for Primary Care and community patients.

The UHB provides copies of an ACP notification report, and a Care Decisions return relating to the recording of a patient's preferred place of care/death, at Attachments 1 and 2.

- 5b. The UHB does not hold the requested information. However, an All-Wales National Service Specification is currently being developed that will outline a series of metrics required to be captured, ensuring consistency across NHS Wales.
- The UHB is working collaboratively with the National Palliative and End of Life Care Programme to improve the service it provides, by undertaking anonymous surveys of patients who are currently receiving Palliative Care within the UHB.

6. The UHB plans to address any identified shortfall in hospice funding, capacity or services, by benchmarking against the All-Wales National Service Specification and the All-Wales Commissioning Framework.