

Reference:	FOI.526.19
Subject:	'No Deal Brexit' risk assessment
Date of Request:	8 April 2019

Requested

Any 'no deal' Brexit impact assessments carried out by the health board.

If any confidentiality agreement has been placed on the health board as a means of not disclosing this information, please provide a copy of that agreement.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) can confirm that it does hold the information being requested, development of the UHB's 'No Deal Brexit' risk assessment has been done in conjunction with multiple organisations to ensure the UHB's ability to deliver safe and sustainable services.

As a public authority the UHB has a duty to protect the best interests of the public and its service users. Therefore, the decision has been taken following consideration of the public interest test to exempt the information under Section 29 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 29 (1) (b) of the Act permits exemption "if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the financial interests of any administration in the United Kingdom, as defined by section 28(2).

When balancing the public interest test, the UHB considered that it is in the best interest of the public to be aware of the UHB's plans and considered risks as this will provide reassurance that the UHB is making preparations to secure its services. However, the UHB also considered that premature disclosure of information could be detrimental to the UHB's ability to protect its services as disclosure of plans and risks could inhibit the UHB's ability to effectively negotiate the required terms of contract required to sustain its services.

Therefore on balance, the UHB favours the non-disclosure of the requested information as it views securing its ability to negotiate and maintaining financial stability as the overpowering factor.

Within the remits of the Freedom of Information Act the UHB has a responsibility to provide advice and assistance and to encourage openness and transparency, the UHB would therefore direct you to the Chief Executive's most recent report to Public Board which provides an update on the UHB's Brexit preparations. This can be viewed on page 4 of the following link:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/Item%203.6%20Report%20of%20the%20Chief%20Executive2.pdf>