

Reference:	FOI.8257.22
Subject:	Repurposing of Withybush General Hospital (WGH)
Date of Request:	15 February 2022

Requested:

Can you please furnish me with the following information with regards to the downgrading of Withybush hospital.

1. Who voted for this and who voted against at the Hywel Dda board meeting
2. How many people in Pembrokeshire were contacted and what was the support rate for the downgrade
3. The risk assessment associated with the decision making
4. The Impact assessment
5. Any and all Council responses
6. The cost of the proposed new hospital
7. The forecast cost savings
8. % of the board members who currently live in Pembrokeshire

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) would like to clarify that the intention is to repurpose WGH, by adapting its use to better service our population's needs whilst bringing hospital based urgent, emergency and planned care currently provided in Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) and WGH together into a new centralised facility to be built somewhere between Narbeth and St Clears. As such, WGH will continue to play a key role in providing services to the local population and will form a key element of our wider strategy to bring more integrated care and support closer to where people live and work.

As some of this information is already within the public domain, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA to questions 2, 3 and 4, as the information is accessible by another means.

The Board papers of the UHB's Extraordinary Public Board Meeting on 26 September 2018 are available on its archived website.

For ease of reference, please click on the link below, which will take you directly to the UHB's webpage, where the Board papers can be accessed:

<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/en/archive/20200916074629/http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/97258>

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. Therefore, the UHB provides the information, corresponding documents or direction to the information requested below.

1. The requested information is available within the attached approved minutes of 26 September 2018 and 29 November 2018, at Attachments 1 and 2.
2. The requested information is available in Annex C, accessible via the link provided above.
3. & 4. The requested information is available in Annex B, accessible via the link provided above
5. The UHB confirms that the three Local Authorities (LA) within the UHB area were closely involved with the consultation process, and it has attached copies of all correspondence and responses received from the LAs and their councillors, at Attachments 3 to 11.

Additionally, information that may be of use to you can be found in Annex G, accessible via the link provided above.

6. The UHB confirms that the cost range for the new hospital is currently estimated at £681 million to £737 million, excluding business case optimism bias.
7. The UHB confirms that the absolute costs for the UHB's new service model have not yet been finalised. However, estimating what the difference would be compared with current spend, under our "Likely Efficiency" scenario, the increase compared with current funding to deliver the UHB's strategy will be approximately £33 million per annum.

Furthermore, given the stage of development and re-design of the service model yet to be agreed, together with delivering the benefits from digital technologies, the UHB believes this can be aligned to a sustainable position.

8. The UHB confirms that 23% of its Board Members currently live in Pembrokeshire.