Reference:	EIR.17539.25
Subject:	Solar Energy Usage and Future Plans
Date of Request:	9 June 2025

Requested:

I would like to request information regarding your current and planned usage of solar energy across your estate.

Please could you provide responses to the following questions:

Governance & Responsibility
1. Do you have a dedicated person or team responsible for solar energy investment and/or sustainability energy initiatives within your organisation?
2. If so, please provide their role/title (personal names are not required).

Current Solar Deployment
3. How many solar panel installations (PV systems) do you currently operate across your estate?
4. What is the total installed capacity of these systems (in kWp)?
5. What proportion of your organisation's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation?

Investment & Strategy
6. Does your organisation have a documented investment strategy for expanding the use of solar panels or increasing on-site renewable energy generation?
7. If so, please provide a copy of or link to the relevant strategy or plan (or summarise key points if not published).

Solar and Net Zero Commitments
8. Does solar energy form part of your organisation's Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Strategy?
9. If yes, how is progress against this strategy communicated to the public (e.g. via website, reports, dashboards, etc.)?

Future Plans
10. Are there any planned solar panel projects or expansions within the next 3 years? If yes, please provide high-level details (e.g. number of sites, scale of deployment, approximate timescales).
11. Have you conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past 3 years? If so, can these be shared?

Procurement & Partnerships
12. Does your organisation currently use any third-party companies or frameworks to deliver solar energy solutions or manage installations? If yes, which ones?
13. Are there any upcoming procurement exercises planned relating to solar energy or wider renewable energy solutions?

Battery Storage
14. Do you currently use battery storage alongside your solar panels?
15. Are there plans to invest in battery storage in future?

Funding
16. Has your organisation accessed or applied for any external funding to support solar energy projects (e.g. SALIX, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, LEP funding)?

Barriers

17. What are the main barriers your organisation faces to further adoption of solar energy (e.g. funding, planning restrictions, roof suitability, internal resource)?

Response:

1. & 2. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has an Energy & Environment Officer who works as part of the wider Environment Team, within the Estates department. This role includes the management of all utility related functions on behalf of the UHB and is the first point of contact for the scoping of sustainable energy initiatives, in line with the UHB's Decarbonisation Delivery Plan and subsequent involvement in scheme delivery and installation monitoring. This includes solar photovoltaic (PV) installations across the Health Board estate. The Energy & Environment Officer works closely with Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES), and other relevant UHB departments to identify and deliver suitable initiatives.

3. The UHB has nineteen (19) PV systems installed across its estate.

4. The total capacity of the installed PV systems in kilowatts peak (kWp) is 1,013.

5. The UHB confirms that 1% of the UHB's energy usage is currently provided by solar generation.

6. & 7. The UHB does have a Decarbonisation Delivery Plan, a link to which is provided below.

   Decarbonisation Delivery Plan

8. The UHB confirms that solar energy does form part of its Decarbonisation Delivery Plan.

9. The UHB does not communicate progress against this strategy to the public, as the data is not published by the UHB. However, progress against this strategy is reported to Welsh Government (WG) through quarterly qualitative returns and annual quantitative returns. It is unknown whether WG publish the data, it is therefore recommended that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information team at WG, who may be able to assist you further. The contact details are as follows:

   Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales,

   Freedom of Information Officer
   Information Rights Unit
   Welsh Government
   Cathays Park
   Cardiff
   CF10 3NQ

10. The UHB provides within the table below a list of the planned PV projects and expansions taking place in the coming three (3) years.

No	Development	Energy	Timescale
1	Carport PV System	117kW	To be completed summer 2025
1	Third-party ground-mounted PV farm	2MW	To be completed 2026/2027

11. The UHB has not conducted any feasibility studies on increasing solar capacity in the past three (3) years.

12. The UHB uses Bright Spark Ventures Ltd to deliver solar energy solutions and manage installations.

13. The UHB has plans to undertake a procurement exercise around the maintenance of its existing solar PV systems.

14. The UHB confirms it does utilise battery storage alongside its solar panel systems.

15. The UHB does not have plans to further invest in battery storage in the future.

16. The UHB has sought funding for solar energy projects through WG funding, via Salix Finance and the NHS Wales Targeted Estates Fund.

17. The main challenges the UHB faces to further develop its solar energy are:
    - The internal resources available, such as the suitability of roofs on the UHB's estate to accommodate further PV systems.
    - Prioritisation of energy efficiency measures over energy generation measures.
    - Accessible funding streams for feasibility studies.