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| Reference: | FOI.4779.20 |
| Subject: | Waiting list for elective surgery |
| Date of Request: | 8 October 2020 |

Requested:

1. In January 2020 how many people were on the waiting list for elective surgery in the Hywel Dda Health Authority area?
2. How many people are currently on the waiting list for elective surgery in the Hywel Dda Health Authority area?
3. How many people are currently in Glangwili and Prince Philip with COVID-19?
4. How many of these are in Intensive Care?
5. What proportion of the NHS staff in these hospitals are directly involved in caring for COVID-19 cases?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that 10,452 patients were on the waiting list for elective surgery, as at 31 January 2020.
2. The UHB confirms that 12,431 patients were on the waiting list for elective surgery, as at 30 November 2020.
3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients with suspected and confirmed COVID-19, in Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) and Prince Philip Hospital (PPH), as at 16 December 2020.

| Hospital | Suspected | Confirmed |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| GGH | 0 | 79 |
| PPH | Section 40 – See full exemption below | 49 |

4. The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients in Critical Care beds broken down by hospital, due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/ General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.

The UHB can confirm that, of those patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, a total of seven (7) are occupying Critical Care beds across both GGH and PPH sites, as at 16 December 2020.

5. Hywel Dda University Health Board is unable to provide you with the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the requested information, the UHB would need to collate the ward areas formally declared as a red zone and undertake a manual search of staff personnel files to identify the staff members that are directly involved in caring for COVID-19 cases to be able to fulfil your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.