

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.3754.20
<b>Subject:</b>	Winter travel arrangements
<b>Date of Request:</b>	5 August 2020

**Requested:**

I am looking into the arrangements that trusts will be making to support staff with travel during the winter months.

Given the potential for resurgent COVID-19 waves, ongoing localised lockdowns as well as annual winter pressures, I am looking into arrangements that trusts will be making to support their staff in getting to and from work during 1 Dec 2020 - 31 Mar 2021.

Please can I have a response to the following question?

What plans do you have in place to support staff with travel to and from work between 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021, in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns, locally or nationwide?

(Such as: booking hotel rooms; hiring private accommodation; paying for taxis; creating special rest rooms)

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that during periods of disruptive weather, provision has been made for 4x4 vehicles to be utilised to support the commutes of staff whose transport has been disrupted. These vehicles are sourced internally, via our public sector partners and also with the support of our contracted private transport providers. These additional services, together with workforce planning by operational departments have ensured that services can continue to function effectively when inclement weather has been experienced in the past. The UHB has no current plan in place to provide accommodation in case public transport is disrupted due to severe weather conditions and/or COVID-19 lockdowns. The UHB's planning and transport teams will look in to accommodation if required and instigate appropriate measures if necessary.

In relation to support for staff during the height of COVID-19, the UHB made provision for a combination of volunteer drivers and taxi providers to convey staff to work, where public transport routes ceased operation. At the height of the peak, we were supporting eighteen (18) members of staff who had no alternatives for getting to work. The UHB would re-initiate these arrangements should a second peak occur. It is important to note however that the Local Authorities (LA) did engage with the UHB to ensure that where possible, the public transport routes that supported our key workers remained in operation.