



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein Cyf/ Our ref ATISN 13538

26 November 2019

Dear,

### **ATISN 13538 – BCUHB: Phillip Burns and nursing rotas**

Thank you for your e-mail received on 29 October which we are responding as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). You requested the following:

*Regarding BCUHB employment of management consultants and the decision to extend nursing shifts without pay:*

1. *What role did the health minister have in the recruitment and approval of Phillip Burns and other managing consultants at BCUHB in recent years?*

The Health Minister has not had a role in the recruitment of the interim Recovery Director or other managing consultants at BCUHB.

2. *Did Welsh Government instruct BCUHB to employ Mr Burns or any other management consultant between January 2018 and the present day?*

The Welsh Government holds no recorded information as it did not instruct BCUHB to employ named individual management consultants. The health board decided to employ interim directors to increase its capacity and capability to meet improvement expectations and to respond to the first recommendation from the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee in its report *Governance Review of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board: Lessons Learnt* in May 2019 on the need to bring in additional external specialist turnaround expertise to urgently address their financial position.

3. *Please send all email and other exchanges between Gary Doherty and the Welsh Government (including Vaughan Gething and his officials) in 2018 and 2019 regarding these appointments?*

Welsh Government has carried out a search of our records and documents that fall into scope of this request is attached.

4. *What is the threshold of pay that requires WG approval generally and specifically for boards in special measures?*

Welsh Government issue pay circulars for all NHS organisations which set out levels of pay for staff directly employed in NHS Wales. These apply to health boards in special measures – see link.

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/workingforhswales/payconditions/payandconditionsresources>



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The pay circulars cover NHS Wales staff employed on Agenda for Change, Medical and Dental, and Executive & Senior Posts terms and conditions.

5. *Regarding BCUHB's decision to extend nursing rotas by half an hour per shift, please forward any correspondence has there been between Vaughan Gething and/or his officials with BCUHB regarding this matter since July 2019.*

Welsh Government has carried out a search of our records and documents that fall into scope of this request is attached.

6. *Does the decision re nursing shifts need approval from the health minister and/or Welsh Government officials?*

Nurse shift changes are an operational matter for health bodies.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.