



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN13984

15 June 2020

Dear ,

### **FOI Request - ATISN 13984 - NHS - Shift hospitals**

Thank you for your request which I received on 17 May. You asked for *Information on the plan for the temporary (field) hospitals set up around Wales in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.*

- 1. How many beds have been used in these facilities?*
- 2. If none what is the clear ongoing plan?*
- 3. What are these hospitals being used for?*
- 4. How much has been spent on them to date?*

Following a search of our records, the information requested is attached at Annex 1. The latest information on field hospitals, including what they will be used for, is at the link below: <https://gov.wales/extra-hospital-bed-capacity-coronavirus-field-hospitals>  
Regular updates will also be provided on our website at the following link: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>.

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,



Parc Cathays • Cathays Park  
Caerdydd • Cardiff • CF10 3NQ

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

SK9 5AF.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Annex 1**

***Information on the plan for the temporary (field) hospitals set up around Wales in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.***

### **1. How many beds have been used in these facilities?**

Information relating to the overall number of beds used in temporary (field) hospitals is not centrally held by the Welsh Government, but would be available from the relevant Local Health Board.

We are, however, able to confirm the maximum number of beds occupied at any one time at these facilities. As at 12th June 2020, three temporary facilities have admitted patients and the maximum number of beds occupied at one time are as follows:

Abergarw Manor: Total beds available onsite– 38

Of which, maximum number of beds occupied at one time – 36

Marsh House: Total beds available onsite – 22

Of which, maximum number of beds occupied at one time – 22

Dragon's Heart Hospital (Principality Stadium)\*: Total beds available on site- 322

Of which, maximum number of beds occupied at one time - 33

\* In light of reduced demand for this additional capacity, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has made the decision to place Dragon's Heart Hospital on standby and this facility has been empty of patients since 8 June. Following an agreement between the Welsh Rugby Union and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board the temporary hospital will remain at the Principality Stadium until the early autumn, and will be available for future use in case the rate of transmission rises and more space is needed to treat patients. The hospital can be mobilised back into active service within seven days, if required.

It should be noted that due to patient turnover, the information provided above should not be interpreted as the overall total number of beds used since temporary hospitals have been operational.

### **2. If none what is the clear ongoing plan?**

Local Health Boards are responsible for working with NHS, public and private sector partners to plan and deliver services at temporary field hospitals.

On 6 May, the Minister for Health and Social Services published the NHS Wales COVID-19 Operating Framework for Quarter 1 of 2020/21, which provided further detail on our expectations for NHS Wales organisations regarding the actions to be taken across the health and social care system in the planning and response to the Covid-19 pandemic. All NHS Wales Health Boards have submitted plans outlining how they will continue to manage the evolving demands of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic whilst providing other urgent and essential services to the communities they serve.

We expect these plans to be iterative and we will shortly publish the NHS Wales COVID-19 Operating Framework for Quarter 2, which will be followed by frameworks covering quarters 3 and 4, over the coming months.

The future use of field hospitals and other temporary surge facilities are a key element in these plans and we expect Health Boards to continue to develop and refine their plans to ensure these facilities are used effectively and efficiently, as part of the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **3. What are these hospitals being used for?**

Field hospitals have been used to accommodate patients who have been treated for Covid-19 in an acute hospital, but are not yet well enough to return to their normal place of residence or may require a period of isolation before being discharged to other health and care settings. They have also been used to accommodate patients who have received treatment in an acute hospital for conditions not related to Covid-19, but are also not well enough to return to their normal place of residence. This type of care is known as 'step down' care and supports patients who may need longer to recover and may require access to rehabilitation and other therapeutic services before they can be safely discharged into the community.

#### ***4. How much has been spent on them to date?***

The Welsh Government has provided funding of £166.7m towards the costs of establishing 19 temporary field hospitals across Wales