

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_12_17

You asked:

1. Have your hospitals had to make special provision for obese patients?
2. What have they been? Bed strengthening? Larger weighing scales? Special training for staff? Etc.
3. How much are these measures costing the health board?
4. Is the Health board facing an increase in obese patients?

Our response:

I can confirm that we do not hold some of the information defined within the confines of your request. However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act (FOIA) to provide advice and assistance I am able to provide the following:

In relation to a patient's weight, the University Health Board does not centrally record this type of information. This level of detail would only be captured in an individual's patient record, for which a manual trawl would be required.

However, all our hospitals have made provision for larger patients through the availability of equipment more appropriate to meet individual need. The equipment has varied from appropriate width beds and specialist beds which take over a specific weight; also there has been a requirement for gantry hoists or general hoists that take over a specific weight along with specialist chairs and commodes.

Standard Operating Procedures are in place for the supply and use of this equipment if the patient's risk assessment warrants it.

Regarding us seeing an increase in obese patients, the UHB position would reflect the increase in obesity in our catchment area and national statistics which show an increasing trend in obesity over recent years in Wales.