

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB\_435\_18**

### **You asked:**

**In your reply you referred TWICE to the police counter terrorism drill and not the MILITARY exercise we specifically asked you about. The Police Counter terrorism drill took place on 16th June of 2016 and the MILITARY exercise took place on 26th February of 2016; I would like to think there is some confusion on your end and not the idea that perhaps the trust were trying to deliberately merge these two separate exercises as one. We asked for specific details of the military exercise and NOT the Police counter terrorism drill. If the trust were given prior notification of the military exercise in February 2016 can the trust please provide details of that notification, including date and time.**

I apologise for any confusion caused by our previous response to your information request (372\_18). To clarify, the Health Board's Civil Contingencies Manager (at the time) was notified by South Wales Police.

We have taken an extract from the email, please see below:

["South Wales Police have notified me that they will be conducting two counter terrorism exercises:](#)

- [11pm to 3am on 25-26 February](#)
- [all day on 21st June"](#)

There is no mention of a military exercise, we have used the wording that was in the email sent to staff relating to the exercise on 25/26 February 2016.

**We asked, in the early hours of the 26th FEBRUARY 2016 reports of explosions came from the area of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. I am requesting details about this incident (explosion). I understand it is a Legal requirement for security to log all incidents including one being that of a huge explosion. It was revealed later on after the explosion that this was part of a MILITARY exercise. So can the Trust please provide details of the following incident, What procedures did security follow to ascertain a bomb had not gone off in the building PRIOR to being notified this was a military exercise.**

No actions were undertaken by security. The email with the extract above was issued on the 12 February 2016. No security issues were raised or logged.

**In your reply you suggest an email exists that gave prior warning to the hospital regarding this MILITARY exercise in the early hours**

**of the 26th FEBRUARY 2016, and that an email was sent out AT THE TIME to relevant staff members. Can you please provide details of that email to include the date and time of this prior notification?**

An email was issued by our Civil Contingencies Manager, to all relevant staff at 15:56 on the 12 February 2016. This included the following extract:

"South Wales Police have notified me that they will be conducting two counter terrorism exercises:

- 11pm to 3am on 25-26 February
- all day on 21st June

Weapon noise and explosions may be heard on the first date along with increased helicopter activity. On the second date this has been described to me as a 5hr 'gun battle' with a considerable number of police vehicles and a large number of helicopters landing on the common land adjacent to the industrial units opposite RGH. This second event will definitely be noticed by the public and staff."

**If the hospital received prior notification how much notice was given?**

The Health Board was provided with 13 days prior notification of the first exercise and about four months of the second.

**If the hospital received prior notification why was it necessary to send an email to relevant staff members "at the time"?**

To ensure that staff and members of the public that were within the hospital grounds were aware of the event, and that no action was required as this was a planned exercise. This would enable reassurance to be provided should there be a requirement.

**If the hospital received prior notification why was it necessary for the Military to telephone the hospital switchboard AFTER the explosion?**

We cannot find any evidence that a call was received after the planned explosion. You may wish to direct this element of your request to the Military to see if they hold further information.

**It is a legal requirement for all security personnel to carry pocket books, and to write an incident report for such a loud explosion and it is our belief the trust were NOT notified prior to the explosion.**

**We request therefore to see the incident report for the explosion and a copy of the email sent "at the time."**

We have no security paperwork as there was no Health Board involvement. As per our responses above, we received notification on the 12 February 2016, however the email did not state 'military'. The exact wording has been extracted above.

**We have information that hospital security did NOT know about the exercise PRIOR to the explosion, and therefore we require proof you were.**

Please see the responses above. Our Civil Contingencies Manager informed the following (extracted from email):

"Information shared only with relevant Executive Directors, COO team, Exec/SM on-call, Comms and Facilities"

(Please note: COO – Chief Operating Officer; Exec – Executive Team; SM – Senior Manager; Comms – Communications)

The Facilities staff group includes security staff and switchboards.

**We have also been made aware that the CCTV for that night still exists and we respectfully ask to see the footage from 4am to 4.30am for the external areas of the hospital, to include the car parks to ascertain for certain this was indeed an exercise as we have all been told, and not a terrorist attack; and I am sure the trust would like to know too!**

There is no evidence to suggest that there was CCTV footage. As per our CCTV policy, we would not retain footage from 2016. Please see extract from our policy below:

"The Data Protection Act does not prescribe any specific retention periods for stored images. Rather, retention periods should reflect the organisation's purpose for capturing images.

Within the organisation, each system CCTV Procedure will specify the time for which images are to be retained on the system. This will be no longer than 31 days for any general system and 14 days for any treatment area footage.

Special provision must be made for CCTV systems covering IT server rooms. In order to maintain accreditation images will be retained for 1 year.