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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_15_25

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request the following information regarding hospice funding and end-of-life care provision within your Health Board for the financial year 2023-2024 (or the most recent complete financial year available):

1. Statutory Funding:

- The total amount of statutory funding allocated to hospices within your jurisdiction.
- The proportion of statutory funding as a percentage of total hospice expenditure (for each hospice separately, if applicable).

2. Service-Level Agreements (SLAs):

- Details of any SLAs or commissioning arrangements between the Health Board and hospices, including the scope of services covered (e.g., inpatient beds, hospice-at-home).

3. Bed Provision:

- The total number of dedicated palliative care/hospice beds available within your Health Board area, categorised by inpatient and other types of care (e.g., respite, end-of-life).
- The average cost per day of the dedicated palliative care/hospice beds? Including nursing, medical and pharmacy diagnostic costs.
- The average cost per day of general acute medical ward beds in a health board hospital, general community hospital bed and specialist palliative care bed.
- Any projections or assessments on the adequacy of current bed numbers relative to demand.

4. Funding Formula:

- Details of how your Health Board allocates funding to hospices, including whether any specific formulas or population-based methods are applied.

5. Patient Preferences and Outcomes:

- Any available data or reports on patient preferences for place of death (e.g., home, hospice, hospital) and how these are factored into service provision.
- Outcomes or performance metrics used to evaluate hospice and end-of-life care services.

6. Future Planning:

- Plans to address any identified shortfall in hospice funding, capacity, or services.

Our response:

Our response is as follows:

1. Statutory Funding

The Health Board does not allocate statutory funding to hospices. The Health Board does not commission hospice care, it provides care via its inpatient beds.

2. Service-Level Agreements (SLAs)

The Health Board has a Service Level Agreement in place with Marie Curie. The total annual cost for 2023-24 was £454,142.

3. Bed Provision

- The Health Board has 16 specialist palliative care beds, one end of life bed and eight enhanced end of life beds.
- **Cost Per Day of Palliative Care Beds**

The average cost per day of the dedicated palliative care beds is £951.51. This is broken down as follows. This is a fully absorbed cost so includes indirect costs such as overheads.

	£s
Drugs	15.31
Imaging	3.45
Medical staff	177.27
Overheads	333.87
Support costs	37.32
Ward costs	384.28
Total	951.5

- Average Cost per Day of General Acute Medical Ward Beds in a health board hospital, general community hospital bed and specialist palliative care bed.

	£s
Drugs	23.92
Imaging	10.31
Medical staff	100.59
Overheads	172.59
Support costs	77.62
Ward costs	213.61
Total	598.64

- There are no formal assessments regarding numbers relative to demand. As the criteria now stands there are few situations where a bed is not available.

4. Funding Formula

The Health Board does not allocate funding to hospices.

5. Patient Preferences and Outcomes

- In terms of factoring in patient preferences for place of death, colleagues are aware that a very small number of patients would wish to die in hospital, with recent reports suggesting that this is as low as 7%.

Data suggests there is room for improvement within this area. This work is being addressed as part of the Enhanced Community Care work that is underway currently, with one of the expressed aims being to, "Provide appropriate and dignified Palliative and End of Life Care, which reflects patient choice and local variation".

- The Health Board uses the National Audit of Care at the End of Life as its performance metric – the Health Board contributes to these audits regularly as required.

6. Future Planning

Future planning forms part of the Health Boards annual planning and is prioritised along with all the other demands on resources.