

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/267
Risk Assessment – Concourse Reception UHW

Request details

I am requesting this information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wondered whether you might be willing to share your risk assessment for the reception area so I might have access to a blueprint copy.

Response details

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) is withholding this information, relying on Section 31 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (prevention and detection of crime). Specifically, the UHB believes that disclosing the risk assessment would undermine the security of the building and would be likely to prejudice the prevention of crime. As this is a qualified exemption, the UHB is required to complete a public interest test in deciding whether it is in the public's interest to withhold or disclose the information.

Public Interest Test:

In favour of disclosure: The UHB recognises there is a public interest in transparency and in public authorities demonstrating that their risk assessments are robust and protect staff, patients and visitors to the hospital.

Against disclosure: There is a very strong public interest in protecting the security of any building owned or leased by the UHB. Security is of the utmost importance for both the safety of all staff, patients and visitors to the hospital as well as ensuring that NHS equipment is not put at risk. Releasing details of the risk assessment into the public domain significantly reduces its capacity to manage this risk by exposing potential vulnerabilities.

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is significantly greater than any interest there may be in disclosing it and potentially exposing any potential vulnerabilities and putting the UHB at an increased level of risk. The UHB strongly believes that posing additional unnecessary risk to the UHB, and consequently patient safety, would be viewed as an unacceptable risk by the public. Whilst the UHB acknowledges a public interest in providing assurances of conducting effective and compliant risk assessments, it believes the most effective means of increasing public confidence in this area would be to protect those documents that could possibly expose any vulnerabilities. The UHB considers its responsibility to protect all staff, patients and visitors to be of the highest importance. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

In order to comply with our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance, please find attached the two corresponding risk assessment templates, which you may find of use.