

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/20/373

GP Practices

Request details

I write to you to request information under the Freedom of Information Act of 2000. In order to assist you I have written a detailed request of the information i would like. Would you be able to release information on the following please?

- 1. How many General Practices/ GP Surgeries in the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board area have made use of the services of the external private company 'GP Hub Wales' (<http://gphub.org/>) within the last five years? Can you note the figures by year and also by local council please?**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. Under Section 16, the duty to provide advice and assistance I would like to inform you that the UHB has not directed practices towards this external service provider but practices may have engaged with them independently.

- 2. How many General Practices/ GP Surgeries are there in the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board?**

As at 1/10/2020, there are 60 GP practices in the UHB.

- 3. How many General Practices/ GP Surgeries are under direct rule of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. That is, how many do the health board run directly?**

The UHB have no directly managed practices.

- 4. How many General Practices/ GP Surgeries have been under the direct rule of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board in the last five years? Please state the figures by year and also by local council areas.**

The UHB have not had to manage any practices over the last five years.

- 5. How much money has Cardiff and Vale University Health Board payed to the private consultancy agency 'GP Hub Wales' in the last five years? Please not the figures by year and also by local council area.**

£0.00

- 6. Has Cardiff and Vale University Health Board paid any other similar companies that provide medical consultancy work such as GP HUB Wales in last five years? If yes, please confirm how much and give a breakdown of the numbers for every year over the past five.**

In noting the information by year as requested would you be able to note it under the format provided here: 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019- 2020.

2017-18– GP Access provided capacity and demand analysis for practices.

2017-18 – DNA Insight provided care navigation training for practice reception staff.

After considering your request for the financial information, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) considers this information to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Section 43) Commercial Interests. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if:

- the information requested is a trade secret, or
- release of the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person may be an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the UHB when deciding whether to disclose information because it considered that in doing so there could be a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the company in question. 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.

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of spending of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against disclosure: There is a risk of disclosure prejudicing the commercial interests of the UHB by affecting its bargaining position with agencies. This in turn could lead to less effective use of public funds in future. It has been established above that releasing the information under the Freedom of Information Act, to which the UHB is subject, will give an unfair advantage to the supplier's competitors. The UHB believes that there is wider established public interest in companies not being prejudiced merely because they have contracted with a public sector body (as upheld in ICO decision notice FS50473543 ICO v Royal Marsden Hospital Trust).

Decision: The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the interests in disclosing it and thereby giving unfair commercial advantage to competitors of the supplier to which this information concerns. The UHB believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could have the effect of discouraging companies from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn this could then jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

By noting any information by local council areas please can you stick to the council areas listed below bilingually.

**Blaenau Gwent
Bridgend (Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr)
Caerphilly (Caerffili)
Cardiff (Caerdydd)
Carmarthenshire (Sir Gaerfyrddin)
Ceredigion
Conwy
Denbighshire (Sir Ddinbych)
Flintshire (Sir y Fflint)
Gwynedd
Isle of Anglesey (Ynys Môn)
Merthyr Tydfil (Merthyr Tudful)
Monmouthshire (Sir Fynwy)
Neath Port Talbot (Castell-nedd Port Talbot)
Newport (Casnewydd)
Pembrokeshire (Sir Benfro)
Powys
Rhondda Cynon Taf
Swansea (Abertawe)
Torfaen (Tor-faen)
Vale of Glamorgan (Bro Morgannwg)
Wrexham (Wreccsam)**

The UHB provides health and wellbeing services to the population living in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. The UHB also serve a wider population across South and Mid Wales for a range of specialties.