

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/286
Independent Hospital Agreements

Request Details

- 1. Did you have an agreement with independent hospitals to cover non-COVID 19 treatments during the first year of the pandemic and, if so, which providers did you have an agreement with?**

Yes. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board were part of a national agreement between NHS Wales and the Independent Sector in Wales which commenced in March 2020. This agreement was coordinated and managed via the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC). The local provider for Cardiff & Vale University Health Board was Spire Hospital Cardiff. This agreement ended in March 2021.

- 2. Do you have a current agreement with independent hospitals to cover treatment backlogs following the publication of the Welsh Government's *COVID-19: Looking Forward* document in March and, if so, which providers do you have an agreement with?**

Yes, we have a current facility rental agreement in place with St Joseph's Hospital, Newport. NHS staff deliver the treatments within their existing contracted time and the Independent Sector provide the facility and the support staff.

- 3. If you have or had an agreement with independent hospitals to cover non-COVID 19, a breakdown of the costs of these agreements.**

The costs of the contract with Spire Hospital, Cardiff as part of the national agreement were paid by Welsh Government via WHSSC and details are not available within the Health Board as these were managed centrally. The costs of the current arrangements for using the Independent Sector vary based on the volume and complexity of the work carried out and are reviewed on a weekly basis. Due to the continuing uncertainty regarding Covid-19, the Health Board has the facility to vary and/or terminate these arrangements at short notice.

- 4. If possible, a breakdown of the number of NHS treatments in your health board which have been placed through independent hospitals between March 2020 and March 2021 and the top three specialties.**

March 2020 – March 2021: 1645 patients operated on. Orthopaedics/ Spines 482 patients, Colorectal Surgery 241 patients and Gynaecology 195 patients. This work was carried out by NHS Surgeons and Anaesthetic staff in core NHS time, and there was no private fee or enhanced payments made to Surgical and Anaesthetic Consultant and other Medical staff.

5. If possible, a breakdown of the number of NHS treatments in your health board which have been placed through independent hospitals between March 2021 and June 2021 and the top three specialties.

April 2021 – June 2021: 265 patients operated on. Orthopaedics/ Spines 107 patients, Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) 99 patients and Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) 33 patients. This work is carried out by NHS Surgeons and Anaesthetic staff in core NHS time, and there are no private fee or enhanced payments made to Surgical and Anaesthetic Consultant and other Medical staff.