

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/22/216
Essential Primary Care Services

What primary care services were to be carried on as essential by colleagues in primary care with whom the Health Board worked between March 2020 and December 2021 inclusive?

Please disclose any changes in the essential services available or carried out, or in what was considered to be essential, during this time, showing what services were considered essential at any moment in the period.

Response details:

The Welsh Government announced a range of measures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to free up capacity to prepare and manage the outbreak; to ensure that care and support is provided to the most vulnerable people in communities.

During the period, Welsh Government wrote to Health Boards to advise that the Minister for Health and Social Services had announced a range of contractual measures to ensure that General Medical Services (GMS) continue to be provided. These measures focussed on enhanced services.

The provision of essential services was unaffected. Under the conditions of the GMS contract, the services described as “essential” are services required for the management of the practice’s registered patients and temporary residents who are, or believe themselves to be ill, with conditions from which recovery is generally expected; terminally ill; or suffering from chronic disease. Practices are independent contractors and during the period stated and going forward, are making those clinical decisions to prioritise how their patients are being treated.

During the period, General Practices also ensured that the Covid vaccine was administered to specific cohorts of their patient group as part of the vaccine delivery programme implemented by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

