

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/131**  
**Emergency Unit Floor Plans**

**Information Requested:**

Could you please share with me the floor plans of the emergency area of your hospitals?

**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 disclosure of detailed floorplans 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 the public being able to locate UHB sites and services.

**Against disclosure:** There is a very strong public interest in protecting the safety of UHB staff and patients. The detailed floorplans requested contain information regarding exit/entry points to UHB sites. As a disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 represents a disclosure to the public at large, the UHB must consider the risk of information being available to any individual. Disclosure of detailed floorplans into the public domain could aid hostile reconnaissance and increase risk to UHB patients and staff.

The UHB already proactively publishes information to support patients in accessing UHB sites and services.

The UHB also recognises there to be a strong public interest in demonstrating to the public that its sites are secure. However, it is not clear that disclosure of this information would serve that purpose.

**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 increasing risk to UHB patients and staff. The UHB strongly believes that posing additional unnecessary risk to UHB patients and staff would be viewed as an unacceptable risk by the public. Furthermore, disclosure does not provide the public with greater assistance in locating UHB sites and services beyond the information already made available via the UHB's website.

The UHB considers its responsibility to protect the safety of patients and staff to be its highest priority. It was therefore decided that it was not in the public's interest to disclose this information.

In line with our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, the UHB would like to highlight the following links which may be of use:

- [UHW Site Map](#)
- [UHW Wayfinder Map](#)
- [UHL Site Map](#)
- [Hospital Walking Maps](#)
- Further information about [UHB hospitals](#)

Please note, the UHB's website may be regularly updated with new maps and site information.