



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

ATISN 14469

14 December 2020

Dear,

ATISN 14469 – The Alternative Pathways Admission Avoidance Pilot

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 22 October regarding Alternative Pathways Admission Avoidance Pilot, specifically:

- 1. The reasons why the project (Alternative Pathways Admission Avoidance Pilot) was not continued, and;*
- 2. Who made the decision that MedServe Wales could retain the vehicle and equipment when the pilot project ended in March 2017?*

Our response

In response to your first question: The original basis of the project was that it would run for 9 months funded by the Efficiency Through Technology Fund (ETTF) and then be evaluated as to whether it should continue and be funded by the NHS. We understand that whilst the project had been clinically effective, NHS colleagues decided it was not considered value for money in comparison to other hospital avoidance schemes and therefore did not opt to continue with it.

In response to your second question: Grants are awarded by Welsh Government to external bodies and individuals for activities linked to the delivery of policy objectives and statutory obligations. Unless stated in the terms and conditions of the relevant scheme grant awards are not repayable. As part of the terms and conditions grant activity is subject to ongoing due diligence and monitoring throughout the project and often after its completion.

In the case of Medserve a grant award was made for the procurement of a vehicle and equipment in order to pilot and evaluate an alternative care pathway for emergency calls. A specific term was placed on the grant recipient that at the end of the project, were the new service to come to an end, the vehicle and equipment would be offered back to the NHS at no cost. When it was decided that the service would come to an end the NHS did not require the vehicle or equipment at the time and therefore it was retained and maintained by Medserve to deliver the BASICS service on an ongoing basis.

We understand that the vehicle is still responding to BASIC calls on behalf of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,