

XXXXXXXX (HIW)

From: XXXXXXXXXXXX (HIW)
Sent: 08 October 2020 16:19
To: XXXXXXXX (A/Det Chief Supt xxx)
Subject: RE: 39 DEATHS DUE TO HOSPITAL ACQUIRED COVID
Attachments: 2615 XXXXXXXX 06.08.20 CE20-2076.pdf; Covid-19 concerns Wrexham Maelor Hospital BCUHB 28793.pdf

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

Prynhawn da XXXXXXXXXXXX

I'm well thanks.

Yes, I have had discussion with South Wales Police colleagues about local matters in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, and shared any intelligence we've gathered regarding the outbreak for their consideration.

I can confirm that I also received correspondence from XXXXXXXX. We have responded to XXXXXXXX – indicating that we had escalated our concerns to the health board at the time of the outbreak in Ysbyty Maelor, and received a response that we were satisfied with. It is only question #5 on his letter that was directed at HIW, the remainder were directed to the health board/chair.

Attached is a copy of what we sent to BCU at the time, and subsequent response.

From our perspective, we were satisfied with what we got back, and we had our clinical advisor review the response. The view was that we were content that the situation had been managed in line with guidance. So, we haven't taken any further action on the specifics of the outbreak. However, we maintain a close watching brief on what is clearly going to be an evolving situation over the next few months (everywhere).

I think, as per my approach with SWP colleagues, if we glean any further intel that may indicate/warrant any police interest about any further matters, we'd adopt an approach of sharing this with yourselves. More than happy to discuss this further if you want XXXXXXXXXXXX?

I hope this is helpful

Diolch

XXXXXXXX

From: XXXXXXXXX (A/Det Chief Supt XXXX) XXXXXXXXX@nthwales.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 08 October 2020 14:48
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXX@gov.wales>
Subject: FW: 39 DEATHS DUE TO HOSPITAL ACQUIRED COVID

Hello XXXXXXXXXX

I hope you are keeping well.

We have received the attached correspondence and as it was initially addressed to you I thought I would make contact to see if you had responded and establish what the position of HIW is.

I am aware that you have been probably in discussions with South Wales Police last week about another matter in their area also.

I think I included you in discussions back in the summer regarding setting up an all Wales group to consider such complaints.

I am in a meeting next week with the NPCC lead for Adults at Risk, XXX XXXXXX who is Deputy Chief of Greater Manchester there will also be representation there from the National Homicide Working Group and CQC with some other devolved English partners. I hope from there to convene the group we discussed in the summer for a Welsh view on things.

If you could let me have your views on the attached in the interim please I would be grateful as I have to respond on behalf of our Chief Constable.

Many thanks

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Ditectif Brif Uwcharolygydd dros dro / Acting Detective Chief Superintendent
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Trosedd / Head of Crime Services
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HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE



Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg - byddwn yn ymateb yn gyfartal i'r ddau ac yn ateb yn eich dewis iaith heb oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English - we will respond equally to both and will reply in your language of choice without delay.

From: NPCC CC Staff Officer XXXXXXXX
Sent: 28 September 2020 15:06
To: XXXXXXXXXXXX(A/Det Chief Supt XXXXXX)
Cc: NPCC ACC Staff Officer XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
Subject: FW: 39 DEATHS DUE TO HOSPITAL ACQUIRED COVID

Ch Supt this has been sent to the Chief – can you please provide a view on the request to investigate

XXXX – for info of the ACC– XXXXXX

From: **XXXXXXXXXXXX** [mailto: **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**]

Sent: 28 September 2020 15:00

To: **XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

Subject: 39 DEATHS DUE TO HOSPITAL ACQUIRED COVID

To: Chief Constable of North Wales 28/09/2020

Dear Sir,

I am a citizen of North Wales, **XXX, XXX XXXX** and **XXXXX** of **XXXXX**. To explain my concerns I enclose a copy of my letter to Health Inspectorate Wales. Shouldn't the police investigate 39 entirely avoidable deaths due to a Health Board's institutional neglect of infection control during the COVID pandemic?

Thank you, **XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXX**.

To: **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

Head of Escalation and Enforcement, Health Inspectorate Wales

28/09/2020

From: **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**

Dear Sir,

I raise serious concern about the COVID outbreak at Wrexham Maelor hospital in July 2020, details of which were only reported at the BCUHB Board Meeting on 24th September, see item 20.108 on agenda "Update report - COVID 19 outbreak East Health Economy".

As usual I present my concern with a letter in the Daily Post last Friday 25th September:

Health Board 24th September: COVID outbreak in July 2020.

"An outbreak of COVID has occurred in the East Health Economy, impacting on high numbers of patients and staff. The majority are defined as healthcare associated infections (HCAs). In total there were 121 positive cases associated with the outbreak (of which 74 were HCAs) and 58 staff cases. Sadly there have been a number of patient deaths of which 39 died with HCA".

"Initial Learning and Key Themes":

- Patient Movement: A number of non-clinical transfers were undertaken, mainly in response to capacity pressures. These moves are most likely to have seeded the spread of infection across multiple areas.
- Staff movement: Whilst the position in terms of nurse staffing and vacancies is acknowledged, particularly at the Wrexham Maelor site, there were a high number of staff moves being undertaken. At times, staff were noted to be moving from COVID cohort areas to Non COVID areas, in response to shortages or patient demand.
- Staff testing: At the commencement of the outbreak the policy in relation to staff testing was not robust in terms of leadership and ownership and there was no proactive staff testing policy in place.
- Environmental issues: The estate at Wrexham Maelor and some community sites lack isolation facilities and individual bathroom provision, leading to increased risk of transmission. The environments are aged in areas and require upgrade to allow adequate and effective cleaning.

So 74 patients were infected with Covid in hospital and 39 died, because patients and staff were moved from ward to ward, untested, spreading infection in an inadequately cleaned hospital, lacking isolation facilities.

Betsi Chair, **XXXX XXXX** - how could the Health Board ignore hospital infection control during a pandemic?

I raise serious concerns:

1. How many of the 58 infected staff required admission, ventilation or suffer 'long covid' symptoms? Remember staff returned home every day risking infection of their family and community.
2. "Health and Safety Executive is at the forefront of working with NHS Wales to improve the health and safety conditions for employees and protect patients from workplace risks". Why hasn't HSE been asked to carry out an investigation into hospital acquired COVID infection of 74 patients, 58 staff resulting in 39 deaths.

3. There is a legal term to describe the 39 deaths in Wrexham - 'Gross Negligence Manslaughter'. Why haven't the police been asked to investigate BCUHB gross negligence resulting in severe harm to patients and staff with potentially long lasting disability and 39 deaths?
4. Has every entirely avoidable death been reported to the Coroner? If not, why not.
5. Health Inspectorate Wales as regulator of healthcare standards and safety in the Welsh NHS have a duty to respond publically to concern that many patients and staff have come to serious harm and died, due to a Health Board's institutional neglect of infection control during the COVID pandemic.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Thank you, **XXXXXXXXXX** **XXXXXXXXXX**