

23 January 2023

Dear

ATISN 17054 – Nightingale Hospital Equipment

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 04 January 2023. You requested the following:

I wish to know what has happened since the "storage" of the lifesaving equipment, and it's whereabouts. I am sure you are aware of the current situation with the hospitals and their shortage of beds, therefore I would appreciate your co-operation, so that the rumour of the equipment having been "sold" abroad may or may not be verified.

Our Response

Many categories of medical equipment were purchased as part of the Welsh government's response to the Covid 19 pandemic and we have taken steps to ensure that this equipment has been, or is being, allocated out to where it is needed.

Health boards across Wales will have utilised most of the equipment to support their on going work but some donations have been made to other countries. Such donations include a total of 198 beds which were transported to Moldova for onward supply to Ukraine. NHS Wales also received surplus equipment from the Department of Health and Social Care in England and some of these items were in turn donated to India as part of their Covid response. It should be noted that all of the movements above were in the form of donations. Such allocations were also only made after a thorough analysis of need across all health organisations in Wales was undertaken.

The position relating to surplus beds is still on-going as following the allocations to health boards and Ukraine there were still stocks of beds in storage. Over the last few months, health officials have been working with local government across all parts of Wales to allocate these beds to care homes that can use them. To date some 1,800 beds have been donated with approximately 300 remaining in stock which we are still looking to allocate to where they are needed.

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,