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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
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gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 5th November 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-J-011

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

Corporate Services
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 6th October 2020. Your request sought information relating to HER2 breast core biopsies.

I would like to make a Freedom of Information Request regarding HER2 breast core biopsies within your Histology departments at Morriston Hospital and Singleton Hospital. Please could I request a response to the following questions:

I would also like to request that the responses are categorised separately by each hospital.

Please note that Histology services are centralised and, therefore, all such cases are treated in the same way regardless of whether they originate from Singleton or Morriston Hospitals.

1. What method or test is used to determine the amplification status of equivocal HER2 "2+" breast core biopsies? (e.g. Fluorescence In Situ Hybridisation)

Dual-colour dual-hapten in situ hybridization (DDISH)

2. Is this test performed in-house or externally? (If externally, please state where the test is performed.)

Currently performed in-house.

3. What is the individual cost to perform one of these tests?

The cost for performing this test in-house is approximately £100. it should be



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noted that marginal costs have been used in this calculation.

- 4. What is the average waiting time (in days) for an exact HER2 score (HER2:CEP17 ratio) to be received by a consultant for a breast core biopsy once it has been proven to be equivocal "2+"? (If an exact time is not available, please could you provide an approximation?)**

Turnaround time is now averaging 5 days.

- 5. What is the range in waiting times (in days) for an exact HER2 score (HER2:CEP17 ratio) to be received by a consultant for a breast core biopsy once it has been proven to be equivocal "2+"? (If an exact time is not available, please could you provide an approximation?)**

3 – 6 days

- 6. How many breast core biopsies were tested for their HER2 amplification status in 2019? Of these, how many were equivocal "2+" cases that needed an additional test to calculate the exact score (HER2:CEP17 ratio)?**

Her2 requests received in 2019 – 1065

Equivocal "2+" - 245

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

