Ref: CORP 2021 - 085 Date: 19/08/2021

Dear \*\*\*\*

**Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information in relation to Fast Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding at Velindre, which we received on 13/07/2021

***Your Request ;***

Fast Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding enables people to be cared for outside of hospital at the end of their lives if their condition is deteriorating rapidly and may have entered a terminal phase. Guidance for Welsh Health Boards recommends that Fast Track CHC packages be commissioned within 48 hours of an application being made – this supports patients to be cared for at home or in the community and spend no more time in hospital at the end of life than they need to.

Fast Track CHC is crucial to ensuring seriously ill and dying people receive the appropriate support they need to enable them to leave, or prevent admission to, hospital. This is often the key factor that allows people to die in the place they choose. Delays to this process ultimately can mean people dying in hospital before a package of care is put in place, causing significant distress for those at the end of their lives and their loved ones.

Marie Curie is looking into the provision of Fast Track continuing Healthcare in Wales and would like to make a Freedom of Information request in this area and seeks answers to the following questions please:

Question 1: During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 how many applications for Fast Track Continuing Healthcare did your health board / Trust receive?

Question 2: During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 how many applications for Fast Track Continuing Healthcare did your health board / Trust fund?

Question 3: During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, how many applications for Fast Track continuing healthcare did your health board / Trust reject?

Question 4: During the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, what were the main reasons for rejecting Fast Track continuing healthcare applications?

Question 5: What was the average time period in your Health Board / Trust in days/ hours from the point at which a Fast Track Continuing Healthcare application is **received** to the care package being provided for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20. 2020/21?

Question 6: What was the average time period in days/hours from the point at which a Fast Track CHC application is **approved** to the care package being provided for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20. 2020/21?

Question 7: What arrangements were made by your health board / Trust in relation to Fast Track Continuing healthcare during the Covid Pandemic during the financial years 2020/21?

***Velindre University NHS Trust response is shown below;***

As a Trust we do not receive applications for Fast Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC) as continuing health care would be funded by the relevant health board, we are usually in a position where we make applications for Fast track / CHC but these are then discussed and approved / rejected / reviewed in the relevant Health Board.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. You should forward your complaint to:-

Mr Stuart Morris

Assistant Director of Informatics

Velindre NHS Trust

2, Charnwood Court

Heol Billingsley

Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff / Caerdydd

CF15 7QZ

Tel / Ffon - 029 20196161

Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales

2nd Floor,

Churchill House,

Churchill Way,

Cardiff,

CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

fax: 029 2067 8399

email: wales@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Julie Mann

Communication and Compliance officer

Velindre NHS Trust

2 Charnwood Court

Heol Billingsley

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Cardiff

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