

25<sup>th</sup> April 2014

ND ref. **FOI/13/277**

Dear

Thank you for your 05/03/14 request.

***Freedom of Information***

I would like to see factual data that supports the case of closing the beds at Torrington Community Hospital.

- a) **What is the cost of maintaining each bed at North Devon District Hospital?**  
Answer: The average, fully absorbed cost per patient bed day at NDDH is £150 for general medical services. There are 300 beds at North Devon District Hospital.
- b) **What is the cost of maintaining each bed at Torrington Community Hospital?**  
Answer: The average, fully absorbed cost per patient bed day at Torrington is £283. There are 10 bed spaces at Torrington.
- c) **What is the expected cost of maintaining care to elderly and infirm people who would otherwise be nursed back to health at Torrington Community Hospital?**  
Answer: The annual cost of the enhanced community services (which provides care to between 180-200 patients in their own homes) is £383,000 per year.
- d) **Can we be assured that the level of care provided by the proposed community care services would be to at least the standards of care that were available when the community hospital was in full use?**  
Answer: Yes we can be assured. We attach with this email copies of the evidence we have used to reach that assurance.
- Eight-week evaluation report
  - Care Closer to Home rapid Evidence Review (Public Health Devon)

This type of question is not suited to a Freedom of Information request. However, it is an important one to answer so we attach a supporting letter, not an FOI response, under a separate cover.

- e) **Can we be assured that the overall cost to the taxpayer incurred by the proposed community care services would be no more than it was (taking into account inflation) when community hospital was in full use?**  
Answer: Yes. Please see the previous answer to questions.
- f) **What are the long-term plans for Torrington Community Hospital with respect to all the other services it currently provides?**  
Answer: The Hospital remains open. Our long-term plan is subject to the outcome of the evaluation report. Our suggested vision for the hospital is stated in the published *Meeting Local Needs* document attached with this email.

Again, this question is not easily answered as an FOI so we have attached a more detailed explanation in the previously mentioned supporting letter under a separate cover.

g) [Are similar plans to reorganise community care being proposed in the future, e.g other community hospitals such as Holsworthy or even Bideford?](#)

Answer: In the short-term, there are no plans to change community services at Holsworthy or Bideford. Please see the media response we issued for more information (appendix and weblink)

<http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk/2014/04/statement-about-holsworthy-community-hospital/>

The guiding rationale for our longer-term approach is clinical and financial sustainability in the face of increasing financial pressure on the NHS. If we have proven that the model of community home-based care is as good, if not better than community inpatient care and gets better value for the taxpayer, then a review of community inpatient services is a logical next step.

h) [How will the care of elderly and infirm inpatients be maintained in the villages surrounding Torrington \(such as Shebbear\) following the closure of the beds at Torrington?](#)

Answer: Our community teams currently provide care and support to people in their own homes across the whole Greater Torrington area. At any one time, the community team across Greater Torrington is supporting between 180 to 200 patients to live independently in their own homes. This service is not just for Torrington town residents.

From our engagement work with the outlying towns and parishes of Weare Gifford, Sheepwash etc, patients in these communities saw that they would benefit from receiving care in their own homes, amongst family, friends and neighbours, as opposed to being admitted to a bed some distance away in Torrington.

Please see the patient stories attached with this email

We hope this is useful. To the best of our knowledge it comprises all the relevant information held by the Trust.

Yours sincerely,

FOI - Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust

**Enclosed**

- QD – Eight-week evaluation report
- QD – Care Closer to Home rapid Evidence Review (Public Health Devon)
- QF – Meeting local needs
- QH – Patient stories

We have a duty to advise you of your right to complain about this response to your enquiry under Freedom of Information. You may do so through the Trust's Complaints Procedure. Full details are available on our web site:

[www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk) or you can write to: The Complaints Department, Suite 2 Munro House, North Devon District Hospital, Raleigh Park, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 4JB. If you remain dissatisfied with the Trust's decision following your complaint, you may wish to contact the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Their web site is [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) Please note: information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. There could be a charge for re-use of the information and you may need a license. Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information. If you need further clarification, please contact 01271 311682

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