

Further to my email of 2 November 2015, I am now in a position to respond to your request for information of 30 October 2015. My responses to each of your questions are set out in bold below.

You will, of course, be aware of the proposal to re-organise Local Government in Wales.

Under the Freedom of Information Act could you please let me know:

1 What is the anticipated cost of the re-organisation? How much will it cost in terms of redundancy / severance pay? and how much in additional Pensions?

We understand that the Welsh Government is currently considering several proposals. CIPFA has produced some figures which address re-organisation in general but these are not specific to any particular model. The Welsh Government has not yet made an announcement on which model it is intending to pursue. Therefore, we do not hold recorded information that meets the description of your request.

2 Has a cost benefit analysis been undertaken? If so can you please supply me with a copy.

We do not hold this information. You may wish to ask the Welsh Government.

3 What response have you given to the appropriate Ministers regarding re-organisation? Please supply copies.

The Auditor General responded to the Welsh Government's White Paper "Reforming Local Government". The Auditor General's response is on the Welsh Government's website contained within this link <http://gov.wales/docs/dpsp/consultation/141208wp-responses-h-l.pdf>

The Auditor General also responded to the Welsh Government's White Paper entitled "Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People" <http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/consultation/150203-power-to-local-people-fullv2-en.pdf> Please find the response attached.

4 What evidence do you have the reorganisation will be beneficial? Please supply copies.

Information not held.

I note that you have reported on the Betsi Cadwalladr UHB. You will recall that this Board was created as a result of a re-organisation by the Welsh Government.

In relation to BCUHB

Under the Freedom of Information Act could you please let me know:

1 What is the cost of the re-organisation to date? How much will it cost in terms of redundancy / severance pay? and how much in additional Pensions?

Information not held.

2 Was a cost benefit analysis undertaken? If so can you please supply me with a copy.

We do not hold this information. You may wish to ask the Welsh Government or BCUHB itself.

3 *What response did you give to the appropriate Ministers regarding re-organisation? Please supply copies.*

Information not held.

4 *What evidence did you have the reorganisation would be beneficial? Please supply copies.*

Information not held.

Do you agree with the following: BCUHB is in special measures, that staff morale is at an all time low, staff cannot be recruited, existing staff are leaving, staff are spending considerable amounts of time travelling to meetings between Hospitals, the IT systems of the different Hospitals are not compatible, leadership and management is poor, too much time is spent on re-organising the structure and personnel issues, and not enough time is spent on caring for patients.

Information not held (please note there is no obligation under the Freedom of Information Act to create information that is not held in order to respond to requests). You may be interested in the joint letter that the Auditor General and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales sent to the interim Chief Executive of BCUHB on 12 October 2015 <http://www.audit.wales/publication/betsi-cadwaladr-university-health-board-letter-interim-chief-executive>

I have not applied any exemptions, however if you wish to complain about my handling of your request, please email or write to me.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ian Phillips