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Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

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Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-457
Ein cyf/Our ref: AC-jb-08-2826
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Adam Cairns
Chief Executive

7 August 2013

Mr William Powell AM
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

P-04-457: The Charitable Chaplaincy Campaign

Thank you for your letter of 11 July in which you are seeking information to set before the Petitions Committee for their consideration.

- whether any data in relations to use of chaplaincy services is recorded;
- for clarity on funding allocated for chaplaincy services across the range of sites your LHB is responsible for and how you ensure equity of service provision.

With regard to your first question I can confirm that there is some limited data recorded pertaining to religious support, for example prayer or communion services, last rites, infant emergency Baptisms. Also patient referrals are documented and recorded. However, generic pastoral support through ward rounds or requests is not stored. Whilst we do have this limited information I must highlight that this does not represent the breadth and depth of the spiritual service within the UHB offered by the Chaplaincy Service to our patients, visitors and staff.

In answering your second question I can confirm that the funding for chaplaincy is used to create a staff team who can provide the services required by the Welsh Government 2010 Standards for Spiritual and Religious Care, these include for example:

1. Pastoral visiting at the bedside by request and general calling
2. Religious services
3. Emergency on-call cover 24 hours per day 7 days per week
4. Support for our staff
5. Facilitation, advice and guidance about faith and cultural issues as they relate to health and health care, death and dying.

The team of chaplains work across the different hospital sites within the UHB on a weekly basis. At all sites a patient will have access to a chaplain upon request Monday to Friday during the working day. An out-of-hours emergency service is also available and can be accessed through the switchboard. As I am sure you can appreciate, with a limited work force chaplaincy has, like all departments, to prioritise work according to need.

I hope the information above meets your needs.

Yours sincerely



Adam Cairns
Chief Executive