

14 March 2024

Dear

**Reference - ATISN 20235 - Publication of HIW Inspection Reports**

Thank you for your email received on 19 March 2024 requesting the following:

- *Any correspondence or emails or notes around the decision to delay the publication of the HIW inspection report into Singleton maternity from 8th December to 15th December. This may include correspondence / emails with Welsh Government.*
- *Any correspondence or emails or notes between Swansea Bay NHS and Health Inspectorate Wales between the draft report being sent to the health board and the publication of the final report.*

We have determined that this information is exempt from disclosure. Our application of the exemption is set out in Annex A to this response.

Information being withheld	Section number and exemption name
<p>Correspondence relating to the decision to delay the publication of the HIW maternity inspection report into Singleton Hospital.</p> <p>Correspondence between Healthcare Inspectorate Wales and Swansea Bay University Health Board between the draft report being sent to the health board and the publication of the final report.</p>	<p><b>33 Audit functions.</b></p> <p><i>(1) This section applies to any public authority which has functions in relation to—</i></p> <p><i>(b) the examination of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which other public authorities use their resources in discharging their functions.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Information held by a public authority to which this section applies is exempt information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the exercise of any of the authority's functions in relation to any of the matters referred to in subsection (1).</i></p>

HIW operates within the Welsh Government's framework for handling Freedom of Information requests. If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,

Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedomofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedomofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

## **Annex A**

This Annex sets out the reasons for the use of the exemptions as outlined in the response.

### **33 Audit functions.**

- (1) This section applies to any public authority which has functions in relation to—
- (b) the examination of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which other public authorities use their resources in discharging their functions.
- (2) Information held by a public authority to which this section applies is exempt information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the exercise of any of the authority's functions in relation to any of the matters referred to in subsection (1).

Through its role as the independent inspectorate and regulator for healthcare in Wales, HIW has functions relevant to section 33(1)(b). The correspondence requested was obtained and recorded in the course of inspection and assurance activity. HIW believes that if it were to share information obtained through its powers to inspect and regulate healthcare, it could lead to those organisations being less open and transparent in the course of an inspection. This in turn could prejudice the findings.