

Dear

ATISN 24501– Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 06 March 2025.

You requested the following:

- 1. How many times has the BCHB been placed in Special Measures over the last 5 and 10 years?*
- 2. Over the past five years how many months has the Board been in Special Measures?*
- 3. What has been the extra cost in staff and associated administration costs to the Welsh Government to provide these “Special Measures”.*
- 4. As BSBC is no longer managing the Hospital Boards, how many staff, permanent and temporary post have been cut to reflect that they are no longer carrying out those duties that have been taken over by The Welsh Government*
- 5. I have tried long and hard to find out who exactly is on The Health Board, but all I can find is the long list of Independent Members. Please provide the list of Executive Board Members and have their numbers on the Board been reduced since the take over of their duties by The Welsh Government.*
- 6. As the duties of The Board been removed has the number of Independent Board Members been reduced.*
- 7. Has the number of Independent Board Members been increased over the past 10 years*
- 8. Whilst The Board has been in Special Measures, have any new appointments to the Board been made, including replacement of retiring members*
- 9. What is the remuneration for the Independent members*

Our Response

1. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has been placed in special measures twice since the [NHS Wales Escalation and Intervention Arrangements](#) were introduced in March 2014.
2. The health board was placed in special measures on 8 June 2015 and de-escalated to targeted intervention on 24 November 2020 – a period of five years and five months.

The health board was placed back in special measures on 27 February 2023 and remains at that level of escalation - a period of two years.

At the end of February 2025, this represents a total of 89 months.

3. During the special measures intervention commencing on 8 June 2015 independent advisors were directly funded by the Welsh Government. The costs associated with these advisors between June 2015 and November 2020 was £254,405.

During the current special measures intervention, a number of independent advisors were directly funded by the Welsh Government. The costs associated with these advisors between March 2023 and April 2024, was £202,953.75.

This is a total cost of £457,358.75

4. We are unable to locate any documents following a search of our electronic filing system using the term 'BSBC'.

The Welsh Government provides support and oversight in respect of health boards that are in special measures. It does not 'take over' the day-to-day running of the health board.

5. The list of Executive Board Members can be located on the BCUHB website under the heading 'CEO, Executive Directors, and Directors' - [Health Board Members - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board](#). There have been and still are a number of vacancies at this level.
6. No duties of the Board have been removed through the process of Special Measures.
7. The number of Board members, including the number of independent members and Executive Board Members, is specified in [The Local Health Boards \(Constitution, Membership and Procedures\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2009](#).

With the agreement of the Welsh Government, the health board operated with a reduced number of Board members for a short period of time following the resignation of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Independent Members in February 2023.

Over the past 10 years, there have also been periods when the number of independent members has been below what is specified in the Regulations, due to resignations, vacancies or retirements. The health board currently has a full complement of independent members in line with these regulations.

8. Yes. When the health board was placed in special measures in February 2023, the existing chair, vice-chair and independent members resigned. Ministerial appointments have since been made to each of these positions. The individuals appointed to these positions are listed under the 'Health Board Members' section of BCUHB website - [Health Board Members - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board](#).

During the previous period of special measures, new appointments were made to the Board to replace retiring members in line with the public appointments processes.

9. The independent members of the BCUHB Board receive remuneration of £15,936 per annum. The remuneration for independent members and other non-officer members of the Board is determined by Welsh Ministers. The role is based on a notional commitment of a minimum of four days per month. Members are also eligible

for reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred while conducting Board-related business.

Next Steps

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: Freedom.ofinformation@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,