

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 22-624	23 rd January 2023
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In this article, the BBC claims this health board to have said delayed hospital discharges and winter viruses had led to longer waits at A&E.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-64038636>

I have no doubt the health board has said something similar to this to the BBC, but would like to see a copy, preferably by PDF, of any communication as to what it has exactly said to the BBC (probably from the health board's press office) and regardless of whether it describes any viruses as winter viruses or not.

Please find attached a pdf. copy of the Health Boards statement as requested.

Ref: FOI 22-625

A spokesman for Aneurin Bevan University Health Board said:

"We are sorry that Mr Williams is unhappy with the care that his service users have received and the long waits they experienced."

"The Health Board, along with the rest of NHS Wales and other areas of the UK, continues to experience unprecedented demand for its services."

"With high numbers of winter viruses spreading throughout our local communities, this is putting severe pressure right across our system, which has, unfortunately, meant that patients are waiting longer to receive care in the Emergency Department than we would want."

"There are also at least 300 patients in our hospitals who are medically fit for discharge but are awaiting some form of support at home before they can leave hospital due to the significant challenges facing social care. This results in a delay for these patients returning home, which, in turn, is affecting the overall flow of patients through our hospitals."

"We would ask Mr Williams to contact us directly so that we can discuss any concerns he may have regarding our services."