

Access to Public Information Response

August 22nd 2014

REQUEST UNDER THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

Request sent on August 22nd 2014:

I was wondering whether it was possible to ask the department some questions regarding the hydrotherapy pool at the PEH.

- Can the department tell us how much it cost to have the pool in the new block?
- How much does it cost to run?
- Who is the hydrotherapy pool intended for?
- How often is it currently been used? How often was it intended to be used?
- Has it been under-used recently? If so what is the reason for this?
- What are the running costs of the pool?

States of Guernsey response September 10th 2014:

The hydrotherapy pool in the Clinical Block at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital has been out of action since the end of 2012.

At first, the pool closure was a temporary, cash-saving measure. The pool continued to be maintained, but at a lower temperature, during 2013.

The cost of installing the hydrotherapy pool was included in the overall cost of the construction of the new clinical block. It was included in the new block during the planning stages, as the previous pool had been widely used for therapy. But changes in clinical practice meant the pool was much less in demand by the time the new block opened. In 2011 and 2012, the pool was only used for an average of around 60 hours per month.

With other hydrotherapy pools available around the island, HSSD and the Guernsey Physiotherapy Group agreed that it would be more efficient to make use of these facilities for the small number of patients who would benefit from hydrotherapy. So in October 2013, the decision was taken to close the PEH hydrotherapy pool permanently.

By closing the pool, HSSD has saved recurring costs of around £22,000 a year; including servicing, cleaning and maintenance, and heating. It has also had a beneficial impact on the Estates team, freeing up around an hour's labour every day.

The hydrotherapy pool space will not go to waste, with several alternative options for its use currently being explored.