

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.13094.23
<b>Subject:</b>	Acquisition of new anaesthetic machines for Withybush General Hospital (WGH)
<b>Date of Request:</b>	10 November 2023

**Requested:**

1. Rationale for Purchase: Given that the current anaesthetic machines are reported to be in excellent working condition, I am curious to understand the reasoning behind this recent purchase. Could you kindly share the justification for investing in new equipment, especially in light of the financial challenges faced by the trust?
2. Number of Machines and Costs: Could you provide details regarding the number of machines acquired and the associated costs, including any additional expenses such as installation or training.
3. Maintenance Expenses: I am interested in knowing if there are anticipated cost savings or increased efficiency associated with these new machines in comparison to the previous ones, particularly in terms of maintenance expenses.
4. Supplier Information: I would also like to know the company from which the new anaesthetic machines were procured.

**Response:**

1. The previous anaesthesia machines were end of life with the manufacturer, meaning that service parts and spare parts could no longer be provided, which is necessary for such critical devices. Furthermore, the reliability of the machines was reduced due to their age. Both factors presented a clinical risk to patient safety. The new anaesthesia machines are standardised across the Health Board to ensure flexibility of staffing across sites, without the need for additional training.
2. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the information requested on the number of machines purchased and associated costs, in the table below.

Number of Machines Purchased	Cost	User Training	Technical Training
10	£342,000	£0	£14,000

3. The UHB expects to achieve cost savings and increased efficiency through:
  - Device maintenance being provided 'in house' by the UHB's suitably trained clinical engineering staff.
  - Increased device reliability, related to their new age.
  - The standardisation of the anaesthesia machines will enable the UHB to procure the same parts for all devices.
4. The UHB purchased the anaesthesia machines from Draeger Medical UK LTD.