

Reference:	FOI.18066.25
Subject:	Air pollution exposure
Date of Request:	11 August 2025

Requested:

Please provide the following information, broken down by month, between January 2020 and July 2025 inclusive. If this is not possible, please instead provide it broken down by calendar year, 2020 to 2025 inclusive.

1a. The number of times a patient was admitted where exposure to air pollution (International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) code Z581)* was recorded as a contributing factor to the admission.

(* I understand this is the code used by NHS trusts to log exposure to air pollution, but if your trust uses a different code or some other system, please still provide the relevant data)

1b. If possible, please tell me what the primary diagnosis was for each of these admissions. (For clarity, I want to know total numbers admitted with each primary diagnosis — for example, if 45 people were admitted with a primary diagnosis of asthma where exposure to air pollution was identified as a contributing factor.)

2. Please tell me how many of the patients in question 1 subsequently died in hospital.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with some of the requested information as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding the following details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA:

- The information requested broken down by month, due to the low number of cases (less than 5)
- The figures in the table for questions 1a and 1b have been replaced with an asterisk (*) due to the low number of cases (less than 5), and the total numbers replaced with a double asterisk (**) as it could be used to calculate the redacted figures.

Additionally, it is not within the expectation of these individuals that their personal data would be released into the public domain. This information is classed as personal data of a third party. Therefore, it is being withheld in accordance with the exemption set out in section 40(2) of the FoIA, by virtue of section 40(3)(a) of the FoIA, which permits a public authority to withhold personal data other than the requestor's where the disclosure would breach Data Protection principles.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

1a. & 1b. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients admitted to hospital for a reason relating to the exposure of air pollution, by primary diagnosis, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2020 to 2024 calendar years and the period 1 January to 13 August 2025.

Primary diagnosis	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Pleural effusion, not elsewhere classified	0	*	*	7	8	*
Mesothelioma of pleura	0	*	*	*	0	0
Malignant neoplasm: Lower lobe, bronchus or lung	0	0	9	0	0	0
Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia of B-cell type	0	0	0	0	5	0
Malignant neoplasm: Bronchus or lung, unspecified	0	*	0	*	0	0
Congestive heart failure	*	*	0	*	0	0
Heart failure, unspecified	0	0	0	0	*	*
Atrioventricular block, second degree	0	0	*	0	0	0
Lobar pneumonia, unspecified	0	*	0	0	*	0
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute exacerbation, unspecified	0	*	0	0	*	0
Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection	0	*	0	*	0	0
Pneumonia due to Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	0	*	0	*
Sepsis, unspecified	0	0	*	*	0	0
Precordial pain	0	*	0	*	0	0
Dyspnoea	0	*	0	*	0	0
Other interstitial pulmonary diseases with fibrosis	0	*	*	*	0	0
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute lower respiratory infection	0	*	0	0	0	0
Respiratory failure, unspecified (Type I [hypoxic])	0	0	0	0	*	0
Oesophageal obstruction	0	0	0	0	0	*
Acute ischaemic heart disease, unspecified	0	0	0	0	*	0
Secondary malignant neoplasm of pleura	0	*	0	0	*	0
Iron deficiency anaemia, unspecified	0	*	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia, unspecified	0	0	0	*	0	0
Unspecified haematuria	0	0	*	0	0	*
Urinary tract infection, site not specified	0	0	0	0	*	0
Influenza with other respiratory manifestations, virus not identified	0	0	0	*	0	0
Polyp of stomach and duodenum	0	*	0	0	0	0
Pleural plaque with presence of asbestos	0	0	0	0	0	*
Left ventricular failure	0	0	*	0	0	0
Benign neoplasm: Transverse colon	0	0	0	0	*	0
Atrioventricular block, complete	0	0	0	0	*	0
Other viral pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	*
Asthma, unspecified	0	0	0	0	*	0
Follow-up examination after surgery for malignant neoplasm	0	*	0	0	0	0
Abnormal findings on diagnostic imaging of lung	0	*	0	0	0	0
Gastritis, unspecified	*	0	0	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	0	0	*	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0	0	*	0

Barrett oesophagus	0	*	0	0	0	0
Other specified disorders of nose and nasal sinuses	0	0	*	0	0	0
Benign neoplasm: Ascending colon	0	0	0	0	0	*
Fibrothorax	0	*	0	0	0	0
Cyst of kidney	0	0	*	0	0	0
Pleural plaque without asbestos	0	0	*	0	0	0
Mesothelioma, unspecified	0	0	*	0	0	0
Follow-up examination after surgery for other conditions	0	0	0	*	0	0
Nephrotic syndrome (Other)	0	*	0	0	0	0
Polyp of vocal cord and larynx	0	0	*	0	0	0
Nonspecific lymphadenitis, unspecified	0	0	*	0	0	0
Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease with oesophagitis	0	0	0	0	0	*
Diverticulum of oesophagus, acquired	0	0	0	0	0	*
Secondary malignant neoplasm of retroperitoneum and peritoneum	0	*	0	0	0	0
Benign neoplasm: Sigmoid colon	0	0	0	0	*	0
Type 2 diabetes mellitus (Without complications)	0	0	*	0	0	0
Other specified abnormal findings of blood chemistry	0	*	0	0	0	0
Calculus of bile duct with cholangitis	0	0	0	0	*	0
Other specified disorders of bladder	0	*	0	0	0	0
Low back pain (Lumbar region)	0	0	0	*	0	0
Malignant neoplasm of gallbladder	0	0	0	0	*	0
Total	**	31	29	31	33	15

2. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of the patients identified in response to question 1, that subsequently died in hospital, as recorded on the WPAS, during the 2020 to 2024 calendar years and the period 1 January to 13 August 2025.

Calendar year	Number
2020	2
2021	1
2022	1
2023	4
2024	3
2025	0
Total	11