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| Reference: | FOI.6405.21 |
| Subject: | COVID-19 deaths and vaccine information |
| Date of Request: | 7 July 2021 |

Requested:

1. How are the Trust/Board making sure that 'informed consent' is correctly being given by those being given the COVID vaccine?
2. What full information is being given to patients within the Trust/Boards area to all people being given COVID vaccinations in order that they can indeed give full 'informed consent'?
3. How many people have died from COVID in Withybush hospital to date?
4. How many of the COVID deaths had pre-existing conditions?
5. How many people have been to A&E to date with adverse reactions from the COVID vaccine?
6. To date, how many deaths have there been in Withybush hospital due to COVID in vaccinated patients and in unvaccinated patients.

Clarification

Between the dates of 1st January and 30th June 2021.

All 'standalone COVID deaths' (not deaths relating to other causes who happened to test positive for COVID) regardless of age etc. By standalone COVID deaths I mean deaths 'authentically' COVID deaths. Not just deaths whereby there has been no examination of the body by a Coroner and the death just registered as COVID regardless. As unless the death is solely COVID and the body has been examined by a Coroner to authenticate this, it is not an accurate COVID death figure.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 4 and 6 as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the requested information, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise the patient records of all those that have died as a result of COVID-19, to identify any information that fulfils your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FoIA.

Information on COVID-19 deaths is already within the public domain and therefore, the UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the FoIA, as the information is accessible by another means. Information on confirmed COVID-19 deaths is available in the Coronavirus data dashboard on the Public Health Wales (PHW) website.

For ease of reference please click on the attached link which will take you directly to the PHW COVID-19 webpage:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

1. The UHB confirms that when an individual arrives for their appointment, they are booked in via the Welsh Immunisation System (WIS) and are provided with a COVID-19 vaccine information leaflet for them to read and discuss with the immuniser. A series of eligibility questions is asked, with one question specifically asking 'Do you give consent?' with the response being recorded in WIS. Additional support is offered to those who require more time to read the information or have any questions. These procedures ensure that 'informed consent' is given correctly by those receiving a vaccine.
2. A Section 21 exemption is being applied, a full explanation of this exemption being provided above.
Patient information leaflets and booklets are available on the UHB's website. Additionally, vaccine information is available on the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) webpages.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached links, which will take you directly to the relevant information resources:

[Vaccine information resources and leaflets - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

<https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/productinformation>

3. The UHB confirms that fifty nine (59) people died in Withybush General Hospital who tested positive for COVID-19 within the preceding 28 days of the date of death, during the period 1 January to 30 June 2021.
5. The UHB does not hold information on vaccine injury or vaccine adverse events. This information would be held by the MHRA, which manages the yellow card scheme, which is a scheme used to collect, collate and investigate reports of suspected drug reactions.

Please re-direct your request to FOI_policy@mhra.gov.uk