

Reference:	FOI.6080.21
Subject:	COVID-19 deaths
Date of Request:	25 May 2021

Requested:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

The number of deaths within your Health Board area involving Covid-19 which was attributed to:

- (i) definite hospital onset
- (ii) indeterminate hospital onset and
- (iii) probable hospital onset;

between 1st January 2020 and 1st May 2021.

Clarified:

For clarification of what is meant by “involving covid-19”, for consistency, is it possible to revise the request to ‘all deaths where covid-19 is mentioned on the death certificate’ please?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the exact information requested. Death Certificates are issued by the Registry Offices upon registration of the death.

We would therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Teams within each Local Authority in the UHB’s footprint, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details are set out below:

- Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk
- Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Whilst operating in accordance with Section 45 of the Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and can provide the information it holds.

Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients that have died within 28 days of a positive COVID-19 test result and the onset category they fall within, as per the definitions of Healthcare Associated Infections, by month, for the period 1 March 2020 to 30 April 2021.

However, the UHB is currently reviewing hospital acquired COVID-19 infections in line with the NHS Wales National Framework for the Management of Patient Safety Incidents following

Nosocomial Transmission of Covid-19. Therefore, the information provided is subject to change pending the results from the review.

Month	Hospital onset		
	Indeterminate	Probable	Actual
March 2020	0	0	0
April 2020	*	*	14
May 2020	*	*	*
June 2020	0	0	*
July 2020	0	0	0
August 2020	0	0	0
September 2020	0	0	0
October 2020	*	*	*
November 2020	*	6	24
December 2020	14	17	59
January 2021	13	23	43
February 2021	10	17	27
March 2021	*	*	8
April 2021	0	0	*
Total	48	71	183

The following definitions have been used to complete the data above, in line with Public Health Wales:

Community onset	Specimens taken on day of admission or day after
Hospital onset - indeterminate	Specimens taken on days 3 to 7 of admission
Hospital onset - probable	Specimens taken on days 8 to 14 of admission
Hospital onset - actual	Specimens taken >14 days after admission

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which 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.