

Reference:	FOI.8229.22
Subject:	COVID-19 patients with Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders
Date of Request:	14 February 2022

Requested:

I write about a Freedom of Information request on the number of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders and would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. How many patients with COVID-19 had a DNR order on their file between March 2020 and January 2022?
2. How many patients with COVID-19 with a DNR order on their file died from COVID between March 2020 and January 2022?
3. How many patients with a DNR order on their file with COVID-19 provided consent or were given consent through their families or carers (or if you are unable to answer, how many DNR orders were filed as "incomplete")?
4. How many of these patients had a learning disability?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate level" 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 undertake a manual trawl of all patient records who are recorded as having been COVID-19 positive whilst an inpatient to identify whether a DNR is held, and whether these were complete or incomplete. In addition, the UHB would need to cross reference these records with a list of individuals recorded as having died from a COVID-19 related death, together with checking their patient record to confirm whether a Learning Disability is recorded. This is due to the fact that the information is not recorded centrally in an accessible manner.

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.