

Reference:	FOI.7178.21
Subject:	COVID-19 patients
Date of Request:	14 October 2021

Requested:

1. How many COVID-19 patients were admitted for ICU/ITU and needed ventilation for treatment at your general hospital in:
 Withybush Haverfordwest
 Glangwili Carmarthen
 Prince Philip Llanelli
 Bronglais Aberystwyth

Breakdown of numbers for each individual hospital

2. How many of the COVID-19 patients admitted for ICU/ITU treatment and ventilated survived?
 At Withybush
 At Glangwili
 At Prince Philip
 At Bronglais

As above breakdown of numbers for each hospital

3. Of the patients admitted to ICU/ITU – how many were classified as hospital infections?
 At Withybush
 At Glangwili
 At Prince Philip
 At Bronglais

As above breakdown of numbers for each hospital

If you need dates for this then could you look at March 1st 2020 to October 1st 2021

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 3, 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 undertake a manual search of the records of patients identified as having been admitted to Intensive Care Units (ICU) with COVID-19 and cross reference against the nosocomial review data to ascertain whether the patients contracted COVID-19 within a UHB environment, 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. Therefore, the UHB provides the information for questions 1 and 2 below.

1. & 2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of COVID-19 patients admitted to ICUs that required ventilation for treatment and the number that were discharged from ICU, as recorded and reported to the Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC), by hospital, during the period 1 March 2020 to 1 October 2021.

Hospital	Number admitted to ICU	Number discharged
Bronglais General Hospital	*	*
Glangwili General Hospital	40	14
Prince Philip Hospital	12	6
Withybush General Hospital	23	9

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 number 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 define 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.