

Reference:	FOI.6636.21
Subject:	COVID-19
Date of Request:	9 August 2021

Requested:

1. How many people in your hospital have died from COVID-19 (not with coronavirus) from March 2020 to August 2021? And please could you supply the age categories.
2. How many people have died from December 8th 2020 to August 1st 2021 that have been vaccinated with the COVID vaccine? Please could you include whether they have received one or two vaccinations and the ages of those that have died?

Clarification

To clarify question number 1, I would like to know how many people have died from COVID-19, just COVID-19 and not related to any other co morbidities. So not people that have died WITH coronavirus but those that have died OF COVID-19.

Question 2, I wish to know how many have died that have received a COVID-19 vaccination within 28 days of receiving the vaccination. They do not have to be COVID-19 positive. Just those deaths, in age categories within 28 days of a COVID-19 vaccination. And whether they received one or two vaccinations.

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 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 tested positive for COVID-19 and that have died, to ascertain those that have solely died from COVID-19, 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 it holds for question 2.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of inpatient deaths that received either their first or second COVID-19 vaccination dose within 28 days of death being recorded, by age group, during the period 1 December 2020 to 31 August 2021.

Age group	Number of inpatient deaths	
	1 st dose received	2 nd dose received
20 - 59	*	*
60 - 69	12	7
70 - 79	19	28
80 - 89	31	28
90 - 104	19	18

Please note: The figures provided are not an indication that the vaccination was linked to the cause of death.

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 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.