Reference:	FOI.6354 .21
Subject:	Deaths from COVID-19 alone
Date of Request:	29 June 2021

Requested:

1. How many people died in your hospitals from COVID-19 and only due to COVID-19? I have seen the figures published but these are deaths within 28 days of a positive COVID test, so they could have died from other causes. I just want to know the exact figures from 1st February 2020 to June 2021 for death due to Covid-19 alone.

2. The number and percentage of people with 'underlying health conditions' in the overall total.

3. The number and percentage of those without 'underlying health conditions'.

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 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)