

Reference:	FOI.10403.22
Subject:	Deaths of psychiatric in-patients not detained under the Mental Health Act 1983
Date of Request:	2 December 2022

Requested:

Please find attached a freedom of information request in relation to the deaths of psychiatric in-patients not detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with information in response to questions 2 – 8 of your request, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The UHB does not keep a central record of causes of death or the nature of injuries obtained. As a result of this, in order to access any information that may fit your request, the UHB would be required to identify the patients returned as part of our original search, trace their medical record and transfer these to a central location for a clinically trained professional to review the record for the information being requested. It is estimated that the cost of conducting the required search would be:

85 patients @ 30 minutes per patient record = 42.5 hours
42.5 hours @ £25 per hours = £1,062.50

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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 Freedom of Information Act, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB has provided the response to question 1 of your request within the attached spreadsheet, at Attachment 1.

Whilst the UHB cannot provide a breakdown of the ethnicity of the patients per the questions listed, the UHB can confirm, of the eighty five (85) patients identified in question 1 of your request, seventy eight (78) of these patients reported their ethnicity as ‘white’, whilst the other seven (7) are recorded as ‘not known’.