

Reference:	FOI.300.19
Subject:	Details of patient falls within hospitals
Date of Request:	12 March 2019

Requested

1. The number of patient falls which have occurred in NHS hospitals within Hywel Dda Health Board for the years: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.
2. In addition, could you also provide:
 - A breakdown of the number of these falls per hospital, by the years above.
 - A breakdown of the severity of these falls (e.g. low, medium, high)
 - The number of patients who were never discharged after their fall - i.e. died before discharge.

Could you break this down both by the years above, and by the hospital where they had the fall.

Response

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of patients who fell whilst in hospital prior to 2015 or any information on those who did not get discharged from hospital following their fall, 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.

Prior to 2015, the UHB used a different version of the incident reporting system Datix, which does not report information in the same way as the current version. In order to provide data on falls prior to 2015, the UHB would be required to conduct a manual search of the system to identify the details requested. Additionally, the UHB is unable to provide information on the number of patients who were not discharged as a result of their fall as in order to provide this information the UHB would be required to perform a manual search of the identified incident reports. In order to provide the falls data on the 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 alone the UHB estimates a cost of:

10,755 @ 2 minutes per record = 358.5 hours
41 hours @ £25 per hours = £8,962.50

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*.

Under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a responsibility to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has therefore provided the remainder of the information which falls outside the scope of the exemption within the tables below.

1. The table below provides the number of patient falls whilst in hospital recorded within the given years.

Year	Number
2015/16	2532
2016/17	2713
2017/18	2847
2018/19	2663

2. The tables below provide the breakdown of patient falls per hospital and their classification, with Level 1 representing no harm and Level 5 being catastrophic.

Year	Hospital	Severity	Number
2015/16	Amman Valley Hospital	Level 1	43
		Level 2	24
		Level 3	8
	Bronglais Hospital	Level 1	260
		Level 2	52
		Level 3	25
		Level 4	*
	Cardigan Hospital	Level 1	*
	Glangwili Hospital	Level 1	662
		Level 2	103
		Level 3	44
		Level 4	*
	Llandovery Hospital	Level 1	20
		Level 2	*
		Level 3	*
	Prince Philip Hospital	Level 1	476
		Level 2	96
		Level 3	43
		Level 4	*
		Level 5	*
	South Pembrokeshire Hospital	Level 1	131
		Level 2	18
		Level 3	10
		Level 4	*
Tenby Cottage Hospital	Level 1	28	
	Level 2	*	
	Level 3	*	
2015/16	Tregaron Hospital	Level 1	26
		Level 2	*
		Level 3	*

	Withybush Hospital	Level 1	328
		Level 2	59
		Level 3	45
		Level 4	*

Year	Hospital	Severity	Number
2016/17	Amman Valley Hospital	Level 1	56
		Level 2	*
		Level 3	8
	Bronglais Hospital	Level 1	281
		Level 2	64
		Level 3	19
		Level 4	*
	Glangwili Hospital	Level 1	668
		Level 2	118
		Level 3	34
Level 4		15	
Llandovery Hospital	Level 1	18	
	Level 2	*	
	Level 3	*	
Prince Philip Hospital	Level 1	501	
	Level 2	98	
	Level 3	32	
	Level 4	6	
South Pembrokeshire Hospital	Level 1	108	
	Level 2	17	
	Level 3	13	
	Level 4	*	
Tenby Cottage Hospital	Level 1	22	
	Level 2	*	
	Level 3	*	
Tregaron Hospital	Level 1	20	
	Level 2	12	
	Level 3	*	
Withybush Hospital	Level 1	349	
	Level 2	59	
	Level 3	33	
	Level 4	7	
	Level 5	*	

Year	Hospital	Severity	Number
2017/18	Amman Valley Hospital	Level 1	55
		Level 2	10
		Level 3	*
	Bronglais Hospital	Level 1	282
		Level 2	93
		Level 3	23
		Level 4	*

	Cardigan Hospital	Level 3	9
	Glangwili Hospital	Level 1	669
		Level 2	116
		Level 3	36
		Level 4	12
	Llandovery Hospital	Level 1	32
		Level 2	13
		Level 3	*
	Prince Philip Hospital	Level 1	437
		Level 2	92
		Level 3	34
		Level 4	*
		Level 5	*
	South Pembrokeshire Hospital	Level 1	105
		Level 2	12
		Level 3	7
		Level 4	*
	Tenby Cottage Hospital	Level 1	13
		Level 2	*
		Level 3	*
	Tregaron Hospital	Level 1	27
		Level 2	*
		Level 3	*
	Withybush Hospital	Level 1	431
		Level 2	87
		Level 3	20
		Level 4	*

Year	Hospital	Severity	Number
2018/19	Amman Valley Hospital	Level 1	50
		Level 2	14
		Level 3	*
	Bronglais Hospital	Level 1	295
		Level 2	65
		Level 3	19
		Level 4	6
		Level 5	*
	Cardigan Hospital	Level 1	*
	Glangwili Hospital	Level 1	627
		Level 2	99
		Level 3	32
		Level 4	11
	Llandovery Hospital	Level 1	18
		Level 2	*
		Level 3	*

		Prince Philip Hospital	Level 1	334
			Level 2	115
			Level 3	30
			Level 4	8
		South Pembrokeshire Hospital	Level 1	96
			Level 2	28
			Level 3	10
			Level 4	*
		Tenby Cottage Hospital	Level 1	13
			Level 2	*
			Level 3	*
		Tregaron Hospital	Level 1	16
			Level 2	8
			Level 3	*
			Level 4	*
		Withybush Hospital	Level 1	430
			Level 2	100
			Level 3	22
			Level 4	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 who experienced falls 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, 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 defines 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.