

Reference:	FOI.15691.24
Subject:	False diagnoses and deaths
Date of Request:	11 October 2024

Requested:

My question is, how many people return to A&E following a false diagnosis? How many people die as a result of this negligence or have a life changing situation as a result in any given year?

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 Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) 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.

In order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Accident and Emergency (A&E) patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as it 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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. The Coroners’ Offices or Medical Examiner Service would investigate and ascertain cause of death.

We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information (Fol) Teams in NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) and the Local Authorities, who may be able to help you with your enquiry.

Contact details for Freedom of Information (Fol) requests relating to the Medical Examiner Service are as follows: -

shared.services@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: Information Governance Manager, 4-5 Charnwood Court, Heol Billingsley, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff, CF15 7QZ.

Contact details for the Freedom of Information Teams within each Local Authority in the UHB’s footprint, for Fol requests relating to the Coroners’ Offices are as follows: -

Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk

Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk