

Reference:	FOI.4510.20
Subject:	Hospital acquired COVID-19 infections
Date of Request:	13 November 2020

Requested:

1. The number of hospital acquired COVID-19 infections broken down by hospital since March 2020;
2. The number of patients who died as a result of hospital-acquired COVID-19 infections since March 2020, broken down by hospital.

Response:

1. Information on COVID-19 is already within the public domain; therefore, Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is accessible by another means. Information on hospital onset COVID-19 infections is available 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 webpages, which provides all COVID-19 data:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

2. The 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 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.

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.

The UHB has recently answered a similar Freedom of Information request, FOI/4820/20, which provides further information similar to that requested and will be published on our disclosure log.

This information is therefore exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act, which states that information is exempt if it is intended that the information held by the public authority will be published at a future date.

The UHB's disclosure log can be accessed via the link below:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>