

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.7545.21
<b>Subject:</b>	Hospital-onset Covid-19
<b>Date of Request:</b>	29 November 2021

**Requested:**

- Since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020, please provide a weekly breakdown of the number of new Covid-positive patients in hospitals in the health board area.  
Please do not count individuals who stay in hospital longer than a week more than once (i.e. they would be recorded as a Covid-positive patient either in the week of their admission or the week of their positive test, and not repeatedly for any subsequent weeks they are in hospital).
- Please state how many were:
  - Community-onset (admitted to hospital after testing positive in the community)
  - Positive on admission (tested positive in a test given on day 1 or day 2 in hospital)
  - Indeterminate-onset (tested positive at some point between day 3 and day 7 of hospital stay)
  - Probably hospital-onset (tested positive at some point between day 8 and day 14 of hospital stay)
  - Definite hospital-onset (tested positive after day 14 of hospital stay)

**Response:**

- Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, a weekly breakdown of the number of patients that tested positive on admission to hospital for COVID-19, for the period 1 August 2020 to 27 November 2021.

<b>Week commencing</b>	<b>Tested positive on admission</b>
01/08/2020	2
08/08/2020	1
15/08/2020	0
22/08/2020	5
29/08/2020	1
05/09/2020	0
12/09/2020	1
19/09/2020	2
26/09/2020	3
03/10/2020	2
10/10/2020	4
17/10/2020	16
24/10/2020	33
31/10/2020	29
07/11/2020	37
14/11/2020	20
21/11/2020	23
28/11/2020	28
05/12/2020	29

12/12/2020	49
19/12/2020	37
26/12/2020	40
02/01/2021	40
09/01/2021	34
16/01/2021	28
23/01/2021	23
30/01/2021	19
06/02/2021	10
13/02/2021	16
20/02/2021	12
27/02/2021	6
06/03/2021	8
13/03/2021	4
20/03/2021	5
27/03/2021	7
03/04/2021	4
10/04/2021	2
17/04/2021	8
24/04/2021	5
01/05/2021	11
08/05/2021	4
15/05/2021	6
22/05/2021	2
29/05/2021	6
05/06/2021	2
12/06/2021	6
19/06/2021	5
26/06/2021	2
03/07/2021	3
10/07/2021	10
17/07/2021	13
24/07/2021	3
31/07/2021	0
07/08/2021	7
14/08/2021	13
21/08/2021	20
28/08/2021	16
04/09/2021	32
11/09/2021	20
18/09/2021	26
25/09/2021	13
02/10/2021	31
09/10/2021	28
16/10/2021	43

23/10/2021	20
30/10/2021	21
06/11/2021	23
13/11/2021	19
20/11/2021	26

2. The UHB considers that this information is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), 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.

This exemption is qualified and therefore, if information falls within Section 22, public authorities must apply a public interest test.

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

**In favour of disclosure:** There is a public interest in the UHB being open and transparent. The COVID-19 pandemic and contraction of the virus, especially in the case of hospital transmissions is a popular topic of discussion, with a significant amount of public interest. Due to the interest in the topic, it is within everyone's interests that information is shared and that the public be kept informed of developments, to reduce anxieties within our communities.

**Against Disclosure:** The information being requested is currently under review and is therefore incomplete. Disclosure at this time could lead to anxiety in communities and due to the strong opinions of the handling of the pandemic, disclosure of the current information could attract negative opinion. It is the UHB's opinion that providing information before it has been fully validated could cause the public to become exacerbated and angry, which in turn, could harm the UHB's relationship with its communities.

**Decision:** - The UHB considers that the public interest in withholding the requested information at this time is greater than the interest in disclosing it, as the attention drawn from the disclosure could cause harm to the UHB and it is therefore applying a Section 22 exemption.

The UHB is currently in the process of reviewing the hospital acquired COVID-19 infections, in line with the NHS Wales National Framework for the Management of Patient Safety Incidents. On completion of the review, the report will be published on the UHB's website, with all updates in relation to the ongoing review being presented at the Quality Safety and Experience Committee meetings, with the details being published on the UHB's webpage, which can be accessed via the link below:

[Quality Safety and Experience Committee \(QSEC\) - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/quality-safety/experience-committee)

[Additionally, the most recent update](#) on the review of Nosocomial COVID-19 Infections and other COVID-19 related matters, was presented at the UHB's QSEC meeting on the 10 August 2021.

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's Review paper:

[Health & Care Standards Fundamentals of Care Annual Audit Report \(nhs.wales\)](#)

Furthermore, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance.

Information on COVID-19 infection onset 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. The information is available on 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, where all information submitted to PHW can be viewed:

[New Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) data dashboard launched - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](#)