

Reference:	FOI.6062.21
Subject:	Miscarriages and still births
Date of Request:	24 May 2021

Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I formally request that you provide me with the following information:

1. The total number of miscarriages and still births in ladies post vaccination compared to the total number of miscarriages and still births in ladies whom have not been vaccinated within the same time frame from January 2021 – current date.
2. The total number of miscarriages and still births from Jan 2015 – December 2020 listed separately and annually.

If it is not possible to list miscarriages and stillbirths separately it will be acceptable to list them together.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all 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 all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to identify the patients that miscarried and cross reference them with the Welsh Immunisation System (WIS), to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not held 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, 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.

Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of miscarriages and still births recorded, for the calendar years 2015 to 2020 and from 1 January to 1 June 2021.

Period	Miscarriages	Still births
2015	428	13
2016	342	20
2017	512	13
2018	462	14
2019	693	11
2020	334	7

January to June 2021	134	7
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Please note, the reduction in numbers from 2020 was attributable to the reduction in patients being seen in hospital, following the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists guidelines for Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, some patients miscarried at home, without a diagnosis being recorded.