

Reference:	FOI.7505.21
Subject:	Never events
Date of Request:	24 November 2021

Requested:

I write regarding a Freedom of Information request on never events, near miss, patient harm and serious incidents and would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

1. The number of never events, near miss, patient harm and serious incidents by hospital and month in your Local Health Board area in the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21, along with monthly figures up to 24 November 2021;
2. The number of inadvertent wrong-sided nerve blocks during regional anaesthesia by hospital and month in your Local Health Board area in the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21 along with monthly figures up to 24 November 2021;
3. A breakdown by category of these “never events, near miss, patient harm and serious incidents” in each year by listing the root causes; and
4. The escalation process should never events, near miss, patient harm and serious incidents be incorrectly classified.

Response:

Some of this information 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 (FoIA), as the information is accessible by another means. A review paper on the UHB’s never events, was presented at the UHB’s Quality Safety and Experience Committee meeting on the 13 November 2020.

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

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/board-committees/quality-safety-and-experience-committee-qsec/qsec/extraordinary-qsec-13-november-2020/item-3-2-thematic-review-of-never-events-during-co/>

The UHB provides within the attached spreadsheet, the information requested that is not covered within the review paper, at Attachment 1.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 2, as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if these details were disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

Additionally, 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, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), 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 define 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.