

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.3185.20
<b>Subject:</b>	Patient transfers from Welsh hospitals into care homes
<b>Date of Request:</b>	20 May 2020

**Requested:**

1. How many patients have been transferred from your hospitals into care homes to free up capacity and for other reasons since 1 March 2020?
2. Of these how many were new admissions to that care home and how many were being moved back into an existing placement?
3. How many of these patients were tested for the Covid-19 virus prior to transferring / post transfer?
4. How many of these patients have since been identified as having contracted the Covid-19 virus?
5. How many of these patients are known to have died from or with Covid-19 subsequently?

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms three hundred and fifty-six (356) patients are recorded as being discharged from UHB hospitals to care homes for the period requested.
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 this information, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of discharged patient records to identify which patients were new or existing patients. The number of patients discharged was 356; therefore, conducting the search would far exceed the ‘appropriate level’, costing the UHB the following:

356 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 89 hours  
89 hours @ £25 per hours = £2,225.00

Therefore, the UHB is applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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.

3. The UHB confirms one hundred and forty-two (142) of the patients discharged were tested for COVID-19. The UHB does not hold data for patients post transfer.
4. The UHB confirms, of the one hundred and forty-two (142) patients tested for COVID-19, eight (8) patients tested positive.
5. The UHB does not report on deaths in care homes or the community.

We would therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information Team in each County Council who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details have been provided below:-

Freedom of Information Office, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Castle Hill, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email [foi@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:foi@ceredigion.gov.uk)

Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email: [FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)