

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.8568.22
<b>Subject:</b>	'Pill by Post' terminations
<b>Date of Request:</b>	28 March 2022

**Requested:**

I would be very grateful if you could respond to the following Freedom of Information request questions relating to 'Pill by Post' abortions, which is defined as an abortion undertaken at the patient's home with both the tablets required for the procedure being provided to her by post.

- 1) How many 'pill by post' abortions were undertaken by your Health Board during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- 2) How many women were recorded to be reporting medical problems attributed to 'pill by post' abortions undertaken by your Health Board during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- 3) How many women required surgery following incomplete abortions to remove the baby's body parts or pregnancy tissue after 'pill by post' abortions in your Health Board during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- 4) How many women required inpatient admission for treatment of medical problems attributed to 'pill by post' abortions in your Health Board during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- 5) How many women died of medical problems attributed to 'pill by post' abortions in your Health Board during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- 6) How many complaints were received from patients relating to the 'pill by post' abortion process in your Health Board during the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021?
- 7) What form of psychological aftercare is provided to women following 'pill by post' procedures by your Health Board?

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 3, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" 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 were prescribed the medication for 'Pill by Post' terminations and then undertake a manual search of each record to identify any information that would fulfil 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.

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 the accessible information it holds below.

- 1) The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of 'Pills by Post' for terminations that were issued, during the calendar years 2020 and 2021. There were no 'Pills by Post' issued during the calendar years 2018 and 2019.

Calendar year	Number
2020	609
2021	881

- 2) The UHB confirms that no patients have reported medical problems attributed to the 'Pill by Post' termination, during the calendar years 2018 to 2021.
- 3) Section 12 exemption applied, as detailed above.
- 4) The UHB confirms that no women required inpatient admission for the treatment of medical problems attributed to 'Pill by Post' terminations during the calendar years 2018 to 2021.
- 5) The UHB confirms that no women died of medical problems attributed to 'Pill by Post' terminations during the calendar years 2018 to 2021.
- 6) The UHB confirms that it has no record of receiving any complaints specific to the termination during the calendar years 2018 to 2021.
- 7) The UHB confirms that women are offered pre and post termination counselling from either a psychosexual counsellor or an early pregnancy loss nurse.