

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_164_19

You asked:

This is a Freedom of Information request for statistics about patient homicides.

Please can you tell me the number of your mental health patients that have committed, or who are suspected of committing, a homicide by date, for each of the calendar years 2013 – 2018 inclusive?

By '*homicide*' I mean murder, manslaughter, infanticide, or causing death by dangerous driving.

By '*patient*' I mean both community and in-patients who are either current patients or who have had contact with the Health Board within six months of the offence.

By '*suspected of committing a homicide*' I mean charged by the Police or found unfit to plead where legal proceedings have not yet been completed, or, where a patient has taken their own life after apparently killing someone else.

Just to be clear I am NOT requesting any personal data. I am interested in the statistics over time and at different times of the year.

As I understand these incidents would normally trigger a Health Board Serious Untoward Incident investigation, and there would presumably be correspondence with your Health Board and the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by people with mental illness (NCISH), I trust this information will be relatively easy to collate.

Our response:

Please note that Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board was established on 1 April 2019. Therefore due to the timeframe requested, the information below relates to the previous Cwm Taf area and does not reflect the recent boundary change. Any information (prior to April 1 2019) relating to the previous Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board area would need to be redirected to FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

I can confirm that the Health Board does hold this information. However, to release the specific information in the way that you have requested would mean disclosure of low numbers.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain.

In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing **in regard to** Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

However to assist with your request, I can confirm that during the time period requested less than 5 mental health patients have committed, or are suspected of committing a homicide.

Homicides would be confirmed by the coroners office/courts. Cases that are classified as homicide are reported to National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide (NCISH) by People with Mental Illness in Manchester. Further information can be found via the following [lin](#)