

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_370_20

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with responses to the following:

A list of all Serious Incidents Requiring Investigation (these include all incidents recorded as SIRIs or SIs and also including anything still referred to as a "never event" or "serious untoward incidents") that occurred in hospitals concerning a patient with coronavirus or suspected to have coronavirus, since its outbreak (or please take March 1st as a start date). Please provide a log of this information, broken down by department and hospital, the month of the incident, a brief description of what happened (e.g. coronavirus patient left in side room and not checked on and died) including the outcome or consequence for the patient, and any investigation outcome known.

In Scotland these are known as Significant Adverse Event Reviews (SAERs), please provide a response accordingly. For clarification on SIRIs in England, the terms 'serious incident requiring investigation (SIRI)', 'serious incident (SI)' or 'serious untoward incident (SUI)' are often used interchangeably. This NHS England document may be helpful: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/serious-incident-framwrk-upd.pdf>

I have attached an example of a previous SIRI/SI response as a guide for a response. Please send me the data requested in the form of an Excel spreadsheet or as a csv file, using the template provided.

Our response:

In response to your request I can confirm that 48 Serious Incidents were identified within the Health Board's reporting system between 1st March 2020 and 31st October 2020, which involve either 'Covid-19 positive' or 'Covid-19 suspected' cases.

Due to the sensitive nature of the request we will not be providing you with the details of each specific incident, and the outcome for the patient as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 1998, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and Schedules 2 and 3 of the Act. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

Please be advised that we continue to work closely with Welsh Government in our reporting requirements.