

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_135_21

You asked:

Could you please tell me how many people in RCT have died under the age of 65yrs between 1st March 2020- 31st January 2021 from the following:

- Cancer
- Heart
- Stroke
- Suicide

Our response:

For the date period 01/03/2020 – 31/01/2021, the number of people in RCT that have died under the age of 65yrs from the following are:

- Cancer = 129
- Heart = 73
- Stroke = 20
- *SUICIDE /Self harm /Drugs/Alcohol = **Less than 5

Please note, the source of the data used for this response is the Office of National Statistics (ONS) data Registered Deaths, supplied to us via NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). As such, there will be a time lag on the reporting of deaths, as ONS data awaits the official clinical determination of death.

* Where coding systems are used in a clinical environment, suicide is not a recorded method of death in the data coded and does not cover that element. You will only find the cause recorded as a primary diagnosis via clinical coding if that is subsequently the main condition being treated during that admission.

As a result of this we have used the ONS data, as these patients are recoded with the coroner code for known method of killing death – That comes under codes for Suicide, self-harm with method, with intent to end life. This also includes use of drugs, alcohol.

The ONS data has also been used to provide the data numbers for the Stroke, Heart, and Cancer figures for consistency of reporting for this FOI.

** Where the figures are less than 5, the exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

This being the case it is considered that such information should be withheld under Section 41 which sets out an exemption from the right to know where the information requested was provided to the public authority in confidence. The component which is applicable relates to the disclosure of the information would give rise to an actionable breach of confidence. In other words, if the Health Board disclosed the information being sought this could lead to their identification which would be unfair and inappropriate.

A duty of confidentiality does continue after the death of an individual to whom that duty is owed. Where there is a legally enforceable duty of confidentiality owed

to a living individual, after death it can be enforced by the deceased's personal representative.