

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB\_438\_21**

### **You asked:**

I would like to make a freedom of information request. Could you please tell me how many patients had E.coli infection or ESBL infection or both, in Prince Charles hospital Merthyr during the period of 1/12/2012 to 31/1/2013

### **Our response:**

We can confirm that the Health Board does hold this information relating to ESBL infections. 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, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, we can confirm that there were less than 5 ESBL infections identified in Prince Charles Hospital during the period of 1/12/12 to 31/1/2013.

We are unable to provide information relating to the number of E.coli infections for the time period requested, as our Infection Prevention and Control Team did not routinely collect this data at that time.