

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_406_21

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I formally request that you provide me with the following information.

1. Please can you provide me with the number of deaths from COVID 19 between 1st March and 1st August 2021, in the Princess of Wales Hospital only?

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

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.

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 patient deaths from Covid, at the Princess of Wales Hospital during the time period requested

2. Please can you provide me with the same information regarding the number of deaths from COVID 19 between 1st March and the 1st August for the previous year of 2020, in the Princess of Wales Hospital only.

48.

Please note the following:

- The source of the data used for this response is the Office of National Statistics (ONS) data Registered Deaths, supplied to us via Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) formerly the 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.
- The data period covers 01/03/2021 – 01/08/2021 & 01/03/2020 – 01/08/2020.
- For deaths within CTMUHB Hospitals. However, patients could be residents of other Health Board areas.
- Deaths with Covid recorded as the main cause – (Death position 1 on the death certificate).