

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_24_22

You asked:

I would like to find out from each health board:

1. How many individual fines have been administered to people who were caught smoking outside on NHS Wales hospital grounds between March 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021.

We can confirm that the Health Board does not hold this information.

The responsibility for issuing fixed penalty fines for smoking on hospital grounds currently sits with Local Authorities and their Enforcement Officers. Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is currently served by 3 Local Authority areas (Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr).

However, it is the understanding of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board that Local Authority Enforcement Officers have not issued any fines to people smoking on any of the Health Board's hospital grounds since the introduction of the ban.

The Health Board has a plan for the implementation of the new legislation and is currently in a phase of working with Local Authority Enforcement Officers to raise awareness of the penalties for smoking on our sites. During the initial stages following the introduction of the ban, the Health Board would prefer to work with our local communities in allowing them an understanding of the ban than issuing fines. Health Board Security staff currently challenge anyone seen smoking as part of the regular patrols to ensure further compliance with the ban. Later phases of the plan will however include Local Authority Enforcement Officers issuing fixed penalty notices.

2. The total amount of money collected from these fines between March 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021

Please see response to question 1. For further information, you may wish to redirect your request to the Local Authorities who are responsible for the enforcement and issuing of fixed penalty fines.

To aid and assist you with your request the relevant email addresses are provided below:

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council - freedomofinformation@rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk
Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council - FOI@merthyr.gov.uk
Bridgend County Borough Council - foi@bridgend.gov.uk