

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_588_23

You asked:

Can I have details of the number of suicides or attempted suicides that have been committed within 6 months of being assessed by the Mental Health Assessment Team at the Princess of Wales Hospital?

Our response:

We 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 less than 5 suicides or attempted suicides that have been committed within 6 months of being assessed by the Mental Health Assessment Team at the Princess of Wales Hospital, for the period since 1 April 2022.