

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_201_21

You asked:

What I would like to know is:

Since 1st Jan 2020, until 1st Jan 2021, how many deaths were there, when COVID-19 was the sole cause of death for each of these hospitals in your Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board:

- Dewi Sant Hospital, Pontypridd
- Glanrhyd Hospital, Bridgend
- Maesteg Community Hospital, Bridgend
- Pontypridd Cottage Hospital, Pontypridd
- Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil
- Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend
- Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Llantrisant
- Ysbyty Cwm Cynon, Mountain Ash
- Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda, Llwynypia
- Ysbyty George Thomas, Treorchy

Our response:

For the date period 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020, the following number of deaths have occurred in Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board hospitals due to COVID-19, with no comorbidities:

Prince Charles Hospital	18
Princess of Wales Hospital	13
Royal Glamorgan Hospital	28
Ysbyty Cwm Cynon Hospital	5
Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda Hospital	Less than 5
Other Hospitals	0

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.

This is the only source of data that we have to be able to determine whether somebody died directly of Covid-19 without any co-morbidities (the figures most commonly cited in the media are the deaths within 28 days of a positive pathology test which is a different metric taken from the Welsh Patient Administrative System (WPAS) /Office of National Statistics (ONS) / Master Patient Index (MPI) systems and combined with Welsh Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data. MPI is the Master Patient Index. It is a national system used to help multiple national and local systems update their demographics with changes from other systems. (E.g. if a death is recorded in one Health Board's WPAS system then another can be automatically updated with that change). Please note that our WPAS doesn't accept these changes automatically like some other Health Boards.

There were unfortunately other deaths where COVID-19 was listed as a cause of death, but all of these had other causes of death listed as well and so are not applicable to this response.

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

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. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under 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.