

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_481_21

You asked:

Please could you under the freedom of information act tell me how many people died just of covid nothing else from January 1st 2020 to January 1st 2021, also from January 1st to date in your Princess of wales hospital?

Our response:

For the date period January 1st 2020 to January 1st 2021, there were 68 hospital deaths in Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM UHB). Of those, 14 were in the Princess of Wales Hospital. The patients had no co-morbidities.

For the date period January 1st 2021 to November 17th 2021, there were 19 hospital deaths in Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM UHB). Of those, less than 5 were in the Princess of Wales Hospital. The patients had no co-morbidities.

Please note:

- Covid Only – no Comorbidities
- In hospital deaths, patients can belong to another University Health Board (UHB) area.
- 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.

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.

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.