

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/20/485

Abortion Complications

Request Details

According to DHSC data (Supplementary Analysis FOI 1250644) there has only been 1 medical abortion complication recorded on HSA4 forms due to use of both abortion pills (mifepristone and misoprostol) at home between January and June.

These complications, as recorded on HSA4 form include a) sepsis, b) haemorrhage, and c) uterine perforation.

Please can you tell me the number of women your hospital has treated with each of these complications between Jan 1st and December 1st this year.

Please can you also tell me how many women you treated in your hospitals between Jan 1st and December 1st of this year, for incomplete abortion or RPOC, specifying the number requiring Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception (ERPC) as well. NB. This should include the treatment of women who may have received abortion pills from independent abortion providers before attending your hospital, as well as those who may have been prescribed abortion pills by your hospital (or hospitals within of your trust).

If it complies within the FOI limitations (e.g. 18 hour time limit, cost, privacy etc.) please also specify the following:

what their complication was

whether they required a blood transfusion

whether they required antibiotics

The data be broken into two sections: Jan 1st to June 1st and June 1st to December 1st 2019 data for comparison

We understand that some of these will be due to spontaneous abortion, and others by medical induced abortion. Unless clearly stated you need not distinguish between them.

We also understand that most cases of sepsis and haemorrhage will not be formally connected with abortion, however where the possibility of a medical abortion cannot be ruled out we ask that you include this data.

If data is unavailable for the time period(s) I have specified, please share numbers from your closest available match.

Response Details

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.