

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/20/175
In-Patient Mental Health Care During Coronavirus

Request details

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information about in-patient mental health care during coronavirus:

- 1. Within the in-patient facilities that fall under your remit, how many patients have contracted coronavirus and/or are suspected to have contracted coronavirus? Of that number, how many have died?**
Please provide data over the broadest timeframe you can, within the cost limits of the Freedom of Information Act. Please also provide dates of patients' deaths. If that would identify them, please provide the week they died or, if that would still identify them, the month. I understand that most patients with severe coronavirus will have been transferred to acute units, if that helps with your search. Please also provide me with a rough figure of the total number of in-patients your facilities support.

As far as we know a total of circa 70 patients to date have had confirmed coronavirus or suspected to have, with 19 deaths related to coronavirus in the older people's services but none in adult services – all these deaths occurred during April and May this year. Most of the patients with coronavirus were not transferred to medicine and the physical health care services. The total number of inpatients is circa 280 at any one time.

- 2. Since 1 March, what policies/procedures have your in-patient facilities put in place to deal with coronavirus? Please provide dates of enactment. Such policies/procedures might include (but are not limited to): asking providers to release patients early where possible; cancelling leave for in-patients; suspending advocacy services; stopping legal hearings; preventing patient readmissions; separating patients (whether through segregation or other forms). In situations where patients were released early, please, if possible, provide a total number. I understand that some policies may have been enacted and then retracted, therefore please provide dates for when they came into effect and were undone. Please also provide documentation, where possible, for the relevant policies/procedures.**

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.

- 3. Since 1 March, what guidance have you received from NHS Wales, Public Health Wales, the Welsh Government and/or the UK's Department of Health and Social Care around how to manage coronavirus within in-patient mental health settings? Please provide the documentation you received, be it emails or formal documents, and the dates when you received it.**

Please refer to Q2.