

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/386
Hospital Records of Covid-19 Prior Mar 2020

Request Details

Does the hospital not have a record of patients at the hospital who tested positive for Covid-19 before March 23rd 2020?

Would the hospital itself not have kept records at a local level to keep a track on infections?

Response Details

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board does not hold this data. However, under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, the UHB can inform you of the following:

- During the period of January 2020 – March 2020, Covid-19 testing was not routine across Wales as it currently is today, there are a number of key dates that occurred during this 3 month period as published by Welsh Government which influenced how the testing programme in Wales commenced.
- From the beginning of February 2020 symptomatic individuals returning from specific overseas locations started to be tested.
- 12th March the Chief Medical Officer issued guidance specifying that testing of individuals displaying Covid-19 symptoms was not routinely recommended and outlined criteria for testing symptomatic individuals who were requiring admission; as a result there was no routine testing.
- As of 7th March, frontline health workers could be tested.
- The national reporting processes in Wales commenced from 23rd March and continued to be developed in the months after.
- Public Health Wales Covid data reporting commenced end of March 2020.
- Testing capacity on 5th April 2020 is noted as 1,100 tests per day for All Wales this capacity did not change significantly for quite a period of time.
- 7th April plans to test more health workers and members of the public as testing capacity increased.
- 22nd April routine testing of care home residents returning home from hospital plus symptomatic care home residents