

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/22/165

Abortions

Information Requested:

Please may I request the following information:

1. What proportion (or number) of women presenting for a medical abortion took a) both pills at the clinic b) one pill at the clinic and one at home and c) both pills at home, for each of the past 5 years?
2. How many a) ERPC (Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception) procedures and b) how many women presented with RPOC (Retained Products of Conception) for each of the past 5 years?

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 trawl through individual patient 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.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with a duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that previous clinical audit projects showed that the rate of minor complications after abortion in this UHB is low and below that of published research into this treatment.

