

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/679

Overheating and Flooding Incidents

Information Requested:

Can I please request, in the form of a spreadsheet such as Excel or CSV file, information on overheating and flooding incidents caused by severe weather in all hospitals managed by the health board. Please provide the information for the financial years: 18/19, 19/20, 20/21, 21/22, 22/23.

I would like the following information:

1. The total number of flooding incidents triggering a risk assessment. This is the number of times severe weather has flooded external roads or where water has breached the exterior of the building e.g. water ingress through roofs or doors.
2. Overheating incidents where the daily maximum temperature exceeded 26°C triggering a risk assessment.

Please include:

- Each occupied ward or clinical area having a daily maximum of over 26°C as one incident. E.g. If two wards exceeded the daily maximum temperature for two days and one clinical area exceeded the threshold for one day then the number of occasions to be reported is five.

Exclude:

- Incidents in areas defined as non-clinical space (e.g. medicine cabinets in central storage areas away from wards)

Response Details:

1. Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold the data on what may have triggered a risk assessment, but in such events a maintenance request would be entered and appropriate mitigation put in place. However, during the requested period there were 33 in-scope reported incidents.

The incident types searched for were: 'Flood/leaks'; 'Flooding'; 'Water leak/pressure failure (include water heating units)'; and 'Water/damp (air or surface conditions)'.

Financial Year	Number of Incidents Recorded
2018/19	8
2019/20	14
2020/21	2
2021/22	5
2022/23	4
Total	33

2. During the specified period there were 48 recorded in-scope incidents. The incident types searched for were: 'Failure to maintain temperature at appropriate levels' and 'Heat'.

The UHB does not hold data for temperatures remaining high for consecutive days; once an incident report is raised in Datix Cymru, it would not be readily reported on the system for every subsequent day.

Not all of the Datix entries record a definitive temperature above 26°C.

The UHB does not hold data relating to what has triggered a risk assessment. Temperature monitoring is conducted on request or where issues are highlighted. A UHB thermal comfort risk assessment template is available and local managers are encouraged to complete them and to apply relevant mitigation. In addition to this, advice is communicated to UHB employees by means of guidance documents and news releases around suitable clothing, including the relaxation of uniforms, usage of fans and blinds, among other things.

Financial Year	Number of Incidents Recorded
2018/19	1
2019/20	5
2020/21	5
2021/22	28
2022/23	9
Total	48