

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/037

PPE

Information Requested:

Intended for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Please can you disclose, preferably by PDF if you are using an attachment, any note as to what the Coroner has found relating to PPE such as plastic aprons, paper masks and rubber gloves, specifically has it been described and found to be "appropriate" or was the finding merely that it complied with the guidance of the time (and therefore the media has put its own take and interpretation onto what was actually found)?

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/deaths-two-nurses-who-contracted-25975670>

This article is one of a number on various news sites that claims "Senior coroner Graeme Hughes concluded on Friday that although they were given appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) Mr Roberts and Ms David were 'exposed to Covid-19 infection at work, became infected, and that infection caused' their deaths."

You will note the word "appropriate" is not in quotation marks, the passage does not quote the Coroner directly over this part and it may be the description the media has given to it. All other online news services I've seen appear to be the same as this article and therefore fail to inform me precisely of what has, or hasn't, been said about this PPE. Like Wales Online, they appear to mention the Senior Coroner "...said the two nurses were given PPE that adhered to public health guidance at the time including plastic aprons, paper masks, and rubber gloves." Again, this sentence is not an actual quote of what the Senior Coroner has exactly said or not and therefore I am left uninformed and not knowing whether the PPE is considered appropriate, which is crucial to what society may be using now, or whether it is merely considered perhaps by the media as being "appropriate" because the Coroner described it as compliant with the guidance of the time. Is this what the Coroner described it as?

What did the Senior Coroner actually say about the PPE? Did he find this PPE was appropriate or did he merely say they were given PPE that adhered to the guidance of the time (and perhaps make no comment about whether the PPE was appropriate or not)?

The coroner's office refused to answer, saying the hearing was public (and therefore apparently requiring that I be psychic in knowing in advance something relevant in relation to PPE might be said in a case and to have travelled hundreds of miles to hear what is actually said) and instead apparently needs me to take up the time of the NHS that is already collapsed in providing healthcare services in a timely manner to emergencies.

Response details:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. Under Section 16 of the FOIA, which provides us with the duty to advise and assist, the UHB can inform you that the Coroner's Office may be better placed to respond to your query, please see the below contact for the Coroners Officer Coroneradmin@rctcbc.gov.uk