

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/005

Health Data

Information Requested:

Please can I request the number of deaths from 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023 (inclusive) in each of the following housing situations:

- people identified as rough sleeping or with a history of rough sleeping
- rough sleeping or with no fixed abode

Where you have access to any of the following information, please include the cause of death or suspected cause of death, date of death, the person's gender, the person's age when they died, their ethnicity, and their immigration status. If you cannot provide any of this additional information, then please just provide the number of deaths.

Response Details:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) owes a duty of confidence under common law in respect of the patient health data that it holds for the provision of healthcare. This duty persists beyond a patient's death. Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) represents the release of information into the public domain. Therefore, disclosure of health data in a readily identifiable format may constitute an actionable breach of confidence. In accordance with section 41 of the FOIA 2000, the UHB is thus unable to disclose detailed patient-level information in response to your request.

However, under our section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, the UHB is able to confirm:

- There were 11 individuals who met the request's criteria, two of whom were female and nine of whom were male.
- Of these individuals, one died in January, one died in February, one died in April, three died in May, one died in June, one died in August, one died in October, one died in November, and one died in December.
- At the time of death, five of the individuals were aged between 40–49, four were aged between 50–59, one between 60–69, and one between 70–79.
- Please note that not all patient records have corresponding cause of death data at the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This is due to either the ONS not having the information at present or the patient not having an NHS number to link on. Nevertheless, the five ICD-10 codes recorded for suspected cause of death were: G419, K631, I500, K746, and J101.
- Please also note that the UHB does not hold information on these individuals' immigration status, and the data held by the UHB is not sufficiently robust to support your request for ethnicity.