

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/009**

**Death Registration**

**Information Requested:**

Could you provide the following information for any time scale you have available – preferable recent and per annum or longer

1. The number of complaints relating to waiting for death registration
2. The time a doctor has to confirm the death for registration
3. The actual time it takes from death to registration
4. The number of deceased patient identity errors in the mortuary
  - a. By mortuary staff
  - b. By non mortuary staff

**Response Details:**

1. From 1 October 2021 to 8 January 2024, there have been 86 complaints regarding a delay in issuing a death certificate.
2. After considering your request, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) believes that section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies in this instance and is refusing your request.

Under section 21 of the Act, a public authority does not have to respond to a request if the information being sought is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The UHB has applied this exemption to your request as the information you are seeking is available in the public domain. Under our section 16 obligation to advise and assist, I can confirm that the relevant information can be found at the following link from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and HM Passport Office: [Guidance for doctors completing Medical Certificates of Cause of Death in England and Wales](#).

3. The UHB does not hold this information. In accordance with a public authority's duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB can refer you to the ONS who might be able to answer this question: [ONS – Freedom of Information](#).
4. There have been no such incidents from death to discharge of the UHB's care from 1 January 2021 to 9 January 2024. As a point of note, such incidents would be reportable to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) as an HTA reportable incident – in line with the HTA disclosure process.