

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/160

Avoidable Mortality

Information Requested:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you provide the following:

The number of deaths that were considered avoidable* from 1st January 2018 - 31st December 2023?

*Avoidable mortality refers to deaths that are preventable or treatable.

Preventable mortality- Preventable mortality refers to causes of death that can be mainly avoided through effective public health and primary prevention interventions (that is, before the onset of diseases or injuries, to reduce incidence).

Treatable mortality - Treatable mortality refers to causes of death that can be mainly avoided through timely and effective healthcare interventions, including secondary prevention and treatment (that is, after the onset of disease, to reduce case-fatality).

Can this be broken down by year?

1a) Of those deaths, how many were due to the following causes: Alcohol-related and drug-related, Congenital malformations, Diseases of the respiratory system, Infectious diseases, Injuries, Pregnancy, childbirth and the perinatal period?

Response Details:

The requestor has stated that they wish to receive information about children under the age of 16 years at Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales.

Year of Death	Number of Deaths Meeting the ONS 'Avoidable Mortality' Criteria
2018	15
2019	10
2020	8
2021	12
2022	9
2023	9

It has not been possible to break down these deaths into individual causes due to the low numbers involved, which would risk identifying individual patients. The most common causes across the time period include accidents, cerebrovascular disease, and infections.

Please also note:

- When considering whether deaths are 'avoidable' for the purpose of this request, the definition used is that given by the Office for National Statistics (ONS): [Avoidable mortality in the UK QMI](#).
- Where any of the ICD-10 codes listed by the ONS criteria were given within the cause of death as 1a, 1b, 1c, or 2, the death has been included as avoidable. This may not be the primary cause of death, i.e. 1a on the death certificate.
- There were 15 deaths within the time period where the cause of death information was not available.
- The ONS definition of avoidable mortality is broad, and where a death meets the criteria, this does *not* mean that there was a deficit in the care provided in the treating hospital. For example, a death from a road traffic collision would meet the ONS definition of an avoidable death. This does not mean that anything could have been done differently to prevent the death after the accident occurred.