

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/087
Button/Coin Cell Batteries

Request details

I would like to be supplied with information in relation to patients treated by NHS Cardiff & Vale University Health Board for injury following the insertion or ingestion of button/coin cell batteries (see definitions below) & ingestion of magnets. Where possible please separate the data to identify cases linked to coin cell batteries or button batteries. In particular, I wish to know the following:

- 1.) How many patients have been treated in the past 5 years for injury caused by -
 - a.) battery ingestion
 - b.) battery insertion
 - c.) magnets

- 2.) How many patients have been admitted to the paediatric intensive care ward in the past 5 years following -
 - a.) battery ingestion
 - b.) battery insertion
 - c.) magnet ingestion

- 3.) How many patients have died as a direct consequence of battery ingestion in the past 5 years?

- 4.) How many patients have died as a direct consequence of magnet ingestion in the past 5 years?

Note:

A button battery is a small round battery where the overall height is less than the diameter and does not contain lithium (tends to be the smallest type of battery).

A coin battery is considered to be small round battery where the overall height is less than the diameter and contains lithium (generally larger than a button battery, around the size of a 10p coin).

Battery ingestion – the battery has been swallowed.

Battery insertion – the battery inserted into an orifice of the body.

Response details

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour.