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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 432
Date request received	16 September 2020
Date information is due to be sent	14 October 2020

Information Requested:

It is understood your department is responsible in providing statistics regarding COVID 19 UK deaths to the Welsh government.

Obviously I have concerns to how these figures are actually calculated and would like to establish if the methods you use are reliable.

As the case, can you kindly confirm if your calculations are based on unequivocal evidence backed up by autopsy's performed prior to issue of death certificates.

Also, kindly provide records of all deaths that does not include Covid, such as, heart attacks, cancer, stroke etc.

If not, can you provide how you have concluded the individuals actually died of Covid 19 infection.

Furthermore, I have acquired from the **ONS: Guidance for doctors completing Medical Certificates of Cause of Death in England and Wales FOR USE DURING THE EMERGENCY PERIOD ONLY**

Thus it is imperative details you provide are accurately establish with documentation to support.

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. Unfortunately, we do not hold the information requested. Information collected through our rapid mortality surveillance for deaths in confirmed cases of Covid-19, will only include patients who died in NHS Wales hospitals or care homes, having had a positive SARS-CoV2 test result in the prior 28 days and who were reported to us via our eForm (or through a manual notification). Clinicians are asked to report deaths meeting the above definition of the suspicion that SARS-CoV contributed to the death. We are not advised if an autopsy has taken place.

Statistics on all other deaths are reported via the Office for National Statistics. These data include clinical details from the clinician certifying the death. The link to their website is below.

[ONS](#)

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales

2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Email: wales@ico.org.uk