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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 328
Date request received	27 April 2020
Date information is due to be sent	26 May 2020

Information Requested:

Why are you not reporting the number of deaths in the above health board on your website when the Chief Exec of the council has gone on the record in the local newspapers to say there have been 20 deaths to date.

I look forward to your prompt response

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request. As you may already be aware, there has previously been an issue with 2 different health boards in the reporting of deaths to Public Health Wales in hospitalised confirmed COVID-19 cases. These issues are summarised in a written statement from Welsh Government:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-review-mechanism-reporting-covid-19-deaths-wales>

For sensitive issues, where there is a risk of deductive disclosure of individuals, instances of 5 or fewer are censored in Public Health Wales surveillance data. This is to protect the confidentiality of the patients and families concerned. At the time of your query, fewer than 5 deaths reported to Public Health Wales for surveillance from Hywel Dda Health Board.

The surveillance data we publish reflect death notifications in hospitalised patients or care home residents where COVID-19 was suspected as contributing

and where the individual has tested positive for COVID-19. This surveillance supports rapid monitoring of trends, with comprehensive data published by the Office for National Statistics at a later date when death registration processes have been completed.

Public Health Wales (PHW) has recently published an interactive dashboard that allows the user to look at data around testing and confirmed cases by local Health Board as well as the Local Authority area. The link to the dashboard is below:

[Covid-19 Surveillance](#)

This has been updated with the retrospective data and can also be found on the Public Health Wales internet page under Topics.

This information around confirmed cases of Covid-19 is updated daily at 14:00 and can be accessed via this link, or for ease, the data can also be find via our Facebook page.

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