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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	051
Date request received	27th September 2017
Date information is due to be sent	25th October 2017

Information requested:

I am interested in finding out how many people acquired a blood borne virus through injecting drug use in each local authority between 2007-2017. Please could the data also be broken down by what blood borne virus was acquired.

Information provided for the answer:

Public Health Wales does not hold all of the information you have asked for, therefore under the duty to assist and advise, our scientists have collated and attached what is believed may be of help to you.

There is a scientific risk placed upon the information attached as it is not always clear or straightforward to answer the question regarding routes of transmission for blood borne viruses because the risks of infection are multifactorial – transmission may occur through unprotected sex in an injecting drug user rather than as a result of their drug use with shared equipment.

We have the attached published data for HIV diagnoses. Table 2 shows the All Wales figures **for probable route of transmission** and you will note from this that the numbers are extremely low for injecting drug use – this is largely due to the needle exchange



Country_Tables.xls

service that was introduced many years ago in Wales.

Links below show Hep B and C infections

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/632465/HCV_in_the_uk_report_2017.pdf) and

the link to the lab data for Wales for Hep C

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/LaboratoryreportsofHEPATITISinWales2014-2017/Dashboard2>) and for Hep B

(<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/LaboratoryreportsofHEPATITISinWales2014-2017/Dashboard2>)

If it would help you further, our principle healthcare practitioner is willing to talk you through the data we have provided and any other data on our website. Please let me know if this would help

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