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Iechyd Cyhoeddus
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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 173
Date request received	28 November 2018
Date information is due to be sent	28 December 2018

Information requested:

I would like to request the following data:

The number of people who have been admitted to hospitals in Wales for taking the above drugs.

The number of people reported to have died after taking the above drugs.

Please could I get the data for each health board in Wales during the period dating from (and including) 2012-2017?

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your email dated 28th November 2018. The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. The number of people who have been admitted to hospitals in Wales for taking the above drugs (Mephedrone, Crystal Meth and GHB/GBL).

Response: This data is not available – we would only have information on admissions where the ICD-10 classified as “Other Stimulants”, essentially the detail on admissions does not specify these three drugs specifically. Amongst this category of admissions, the number of admission decreased by 19.9 percent in 2017/18 compared to 5 years ago. Information on this can be found on chart 5 (page 21) of the annual profile for substance misuse (Available at: [Substance Misuse](#))

2. The number of people reported to have died after taking the above drugs.
Response: please see table below and note that

- a. It is not possible to provide this data at health board level or for individual years due to very low numbers
- b. It is important to note that the data indicate that following toxicology screening post-mortem, there was evidence that the individual died and these substances were present in their system – it is not possible for us to state that an individual died from taking these drugs – that is the judgement of the coroner and inquest.

ONS data on drug misuse deaths
in Wales for the period 2012 to
2017

	Number of drug misuse deaths
GHB/GBL	3
Mephedrone	10
Methamphetamine	3

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