



Our Ref: ATISN 10474

Date: 27 June 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10474 – Never events and Serious Incidents

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on 27 May. You asked for:

- The number of patient safety incidents and serious incidents referred to the Welsh Government by health boards, to include the date, the location, the hospital, the nature of the referral and the action taken, broken down for the financial years 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and from 1 April 2016 to 27 May 2016.

The Welsh Government believes this information is exempt under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 12 of the Act states a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information in circumstances where it estimates the cost of compliance would exceed “the appropriate limit”. The appropriate limit is defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. In the case of the Welsh Government the limit is set at £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds the appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time (at a standard rate of £25 per hour) the limit will have been exceeded.

The Welsh Government saves information on several electronic and hard copy filing systems. The information you have requested is not held on a single file. For the six years spanning your request an initial search of our systems has found a total of 4413 records for the period 2011/12, to 27 May 2016.

In conducting a small sample of the information held, it has taken roughly ten minutes per record to extract all the detailed information you have requested in relation to each incident. Therefore I estimate searching for this information could take over 735 hours (or over £18,375) and therefore significantly exceeds the appropriate limit set under the 2004 Regulations. For these reasons I have concluded that your request should be refused on

the basis that it exceeds the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. In the circumstances, we will not take any additional action in relation to this request and any further request for information received from you will be logged and handled as a new request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates or period of time relevant to the information required. If you do refine your request in this way, this will be treated as a new request.

In relation to your request, it should be noted that some of the information falling under your request can be viewed at:

<http://mylocalhealthservice.wales.gov.uk>

By clicking on any health board and selecting the safe care tab half way down the page, a link for serious incident reporting and never event reporting will appear. This link contains the number of serious incidents and never events reported to Welsh Government for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,