

Ein cyf / Our ref: **ATISN-11986**

Dyddiad / Date: 26/02/2018

Dear ,

ATISN 11986 – Request for information

Thank you for your request which we received on 29 January 2018 regarding notifications on medication errors in adult residential and domiciliary care services in Wales.

I wish to advise you that the Welsh Government believes that the following information should be exempt from disclosure.

Information being withheld	Section number and exemption name
The individual names of the services to which the notifications regarding medication errors apply.	Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act – commercial interests.

The Welsh Government has not yet reached a decision on the balance of the public interest. Due to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to the information that you have requested, the Welsh Government will not be able to respond to your request in full within 20 working days.

I hope to let you have a response by 26 March 2018.

I can however provide you with the cumulative totals of medication errors reported to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in relation to adult care homes and domiciliary care (we do not separate out supported housing in Wales). I urge caution in their interpretation for the following reasons.

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Llywodraeth Cymru
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Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Firstly neither regulation 38 for residential care homes nor regulation 26 for domiciliary care actually specify the need to report medication errors, only incidents which either impact on the wellbeing of people or result in disciplinary measures against staff. The need to report medication errors is therefore open to wide interpretation.

Secondly during the period of time you have requested information for, CIW gave new guidance on reporting medication errors in domiciliary care (28 April 2016) and wrote to all providers, and strengthened its reporting forms to encourage higher reporting of medication errors, especially in domiciliary care. This has resulted in increased reporting.

With those caveats in mind I can advise you of the following data:

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (month end Jan 18)	Total
Adult Care Home	844	816	914	2574
Domiciliary Support Service	525	803	865	2193
Total	1369	1619	1779	4767

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