

Freedom of Information Team  
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Name:  
 Email:  
 Date: 04/05/2021  
 Ref: 21-22 010

Dear

**Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 06/04/2021.

**1. Total number of recorded Influenza deaths for the period 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2018.**

Please see table below.

Calendar Year	No of Patient Deaths
2018	15
2019	16
2020	5
Grand Total	36

**2. Total number of recorded Influenza deaths for the period 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019.**

Please see table in question 1.

**3. Total number of recorded Influenza deaths for the period 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020.**

Please see table in question 1.

**4. Total number of deaths from Covid-19 (where Covid-19 is the only cause of death reported) for the period 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020.** To avoid any confusion, we are responding with the single measure used and reported nationally, to allow for valid comparisons between areas. We do not report deaths where the patient only had a diagnosis of Covid-19. Please see table below.

Month	Total Deaths - where patient had a diagnosis of Covid-19
Mar-20	58
Apr-20	148
May-20	34
Jun-20	4
Jul-20	1
Aug-20	1
Sep-20	7
Oct-20	8
Nov-20	52
Dec-20	147
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>458</b>

Covid-19 deaths are treated in accordance with the following criteria:

The death of a patient who has a positive specimen result where the swab was taken within 28 days of death and/or COVID-19 is cited on either Part 1 or Part 2 of the death certificate (i.e. the death resulted from a COVID-19 clinically compatible illness with no period of complete recovery between the illness and death).

The World Health Organisation have released their ICD guidelines on recordings of deaths relating from a COVID-19 causality:

Link:

[https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/Guidelines\\_Cause\\_of\\_Death\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/Guidelines_Cause_of_Death_COVID-19.pdf)

WHO (Death Certificate Recording):

•Section 2:

A death due to COVID-19 is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness, in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma).

There should be no period of complete recovery from COVID-19 between illness and death.

A death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer) and should be counted independently of pre-existing conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19.

•Section 3: (A)

COVID-19 should be recorded on the medical certificate of cause of death for ALL decedents where the disease caused, or is assumed to have caused, or contributed to death.

**5. Total number of deaths with Covid-19 (where Covid-19 is not the only cause of death reported but where other co-morbidities are mentioned) for the period 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020.**

The Trust does not hold information in relation to how many patients had died as a result of COVID 19, with or without underlying health conditions.

To extract this information, we would have to search through a significant amount of patient records. It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information Request, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on [Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk) or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team