

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7166

Please reply to:
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28 January 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Covid, vaccination and deaths and our response to your request ID 7135.

You asked:

1. Please confirm how many of the 1367 patients admitted from 1 January to 21 December 2021 were admitted where the sole reason for hospitalisation was COVID-19 or any complication of this, who were then confirmed by positive PCR test within 8 days. Please exclude from this figure any patients who were admitted due to other reasons who tested positive within 8 days, as well as any patients who may have been admitted due to adverse reactions following the COVID-19 vaccine.

2. According to your breakdown below, the grand total of patients who have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine was 651. Since you claim 1367 patients were admitted during the stated period who tested positive within 8 days, this would render 716 patients who were unvaccinated.

2a. The 10th column on your table stated 267 patients had no vaccine. Can you please confirm this is the case and also explain why these 267 patients have a category of "no vaccine" on their own and why the other 716 patients (total admissions – grand total provided by you) have not been included in this category?

2b. Can you confirm that the 716 patients, that is, the total admissions of patients who tested positive within 8 days (1367) minus the grand total of patients on your table (651) had not received any COVID-19 injection or booster? Just to clear and avoid misunderstandings, I am asking you to use the word unvaccinated to mean somebody who has not had any vaccine injected in their body at any time and conversely, vaccinated means someone who has had a vaccine irrespective of how long it has been since they had received it or the number of vaccines they have received.

3. Your answer to my third question was “Total number of patients admitted within 8 days of a positive swab from 1 January to 21 December 2021 who died – 149”.

Similarly, to question 1, this may include patients who had died due to complications of other issues such as cancer, a road traffic accident or a heart attack who had tested positive within 8 days of admission.

3a. Please confirm how many of the 149 patients you stated died solely due to COVID-19 or any complication thereof and exclude from this number any patient who died due to other medical conditions, including complications from taking a COVID-19 vaccine.

4. Your reply to my last question was “Confirmation of Sars CoV2 is by PCR testing. Cut off for positive is 28 CT”.

4a. Can you please confirm that all 1367 patients who were admitted to hospital between 1st January 2021 and 21st December 2021 had tested positive by returning a positive PCR test result at 28 CT?

4b. Has the CT cut off benchmark varied within the period in question? If so, please provide a breakdown of any periods where the cut off benchmark has been altered.

Trust response:

1. The Trust did not collect whether a patient was admitted ‘for or with’ Covid until around June 2021. The site team are asked to indicate for all new admissions whether they are in ‘with or for’ Covid but this data is not always completed so it was agreed that the assumption be made that unless it is specifically stated that the patient is admitted ‘with’, it is assumed that the patient is admitted ‘for’. As day 8 is deemed as the cut-off date and implies that all confirmed cases after this date are to be presumed hospital onset, these patients are recorded as ‘with’. This is recorded for each day but not recorded centrally. In order to get exact figures would require the manual checking of each days data and individual patient records and would take us over the 18 hours allowed to respond and is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the Act.

2) The record we have for Covid vaccines did not start until 1 June 2021 so our data only covers part of this period.

2a) these are patients that we were able to confirm had not received any form of vaccine.

2b) We cannot confirm that these patients ‘had not received’ any Covid vaccine as this information was not collected.

3.

3a. The Trust is able to advise how many patients have died in hospital with no comorbidities (including obesity) detailed on their death certificates i.e., death certificates that are clean except for Covid 19 recorded in section 1a (please see below). It should be noted that this data may not accurately respond to the question asked.

Months	T/Wells Hospital	Maidstone Hospital
Jan 2021	10	17
Feb	2	3
March	0	1
April	0	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
July	0	0
Aug	0	1
Sept	1	2
Oct	1	0
Nov	0	0
Dec	0	1

4a. No, the cut off is the number of CT (cycles) at which we can be confident that a positive is genuine on our instrument. Individual specimens tested during this timeframe would have had CT values between 15 (the lower level of detection of our kit) and 33 (the upper level of detection) on our first testing platform.

Specimens with CT values above 28 would then have been tested on a second platform for confirmation.

4b – The CT cut off value was not 28 for the entire duration of this timeframe. During periods of low prevalence, the cut off was decreased to 25CT allowing for increased sensitivity, resulting in increased repeat testing to confirm positive values. The lower CT value was used between April and November 2021.

Repeat specimens were requested from patients whose results did not confirm on the second platform.