

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 23-306	11 August 2023
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## Your request

You requested the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information from your organisation:

For all responses, please provide figures for the last three reported years:

1. What is the average length of stay in hospital for an individual who arrives at hospital due to a suspected acute (combined or otherwise) drug intoxication and then subsequently dies, were the drugs they had taken before they arrive at hospital were acknowledged in the cause of death?
2. What categories of emergency treatment, and in what proportions, are received in hospital by all those admitted for acute (combined and otherwise) drug intoxication?
3. What categories of emergency treatment, and in what proportions, are received in hospital by those admitted for acute (combined and otherwise) drug intoxication who are eventually discharged?
4. What categories of emergency treatment, and in what proportions, are received in hospital by those admitted for acute (combined and otherwise) drug intoxication which is eventually fatal?
5. What is the day rate for the following treatment:
  - a. Acute drug intoxication – non elective short stay
  - b. Acute drug intoxication – non-elective long stay
  - c. Acute Combined drug intoxication – non elective short stay
  - d. Acute combined drug intoxication – non elective long stay

You provided the following clarification:

In this context, drug intoxication would mean both intentional (i.e. suicide) and unintentional poisonings/overdoses? Realistically, for the project I'm working on, unintentional drug overdoses are the most important figures to collect. I can't imagine it would be feasible within the time limit, but ideally I would screen out over the counter medication, but include prescription medication albeit shown separately if possible.

For length of stay I require both those attending A&E and inpatient care.

Day rate in this regard is the cost of care on a per day basis.

Combined drug intoxication here is concerning the combination of multiple drugs rather than in combination with alcohol.

## Our response

1. We do not hold the information requested.
2. Interventions provided to patients with acute drug intoxication are recorded within patient notes and not coded on digital systems. We would therefore have to review individual patient records to extract this information. Therefore, to comply with your request, we have established that this would exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which is currently £450. We estimate that it would take Health Board staff approximately 2,402 hours to review. This figure is based on a timescale of 15 minutes per patient file. The Health Board's staff will have a total of 9,608 files to review, to obtain the data this would work out at approximately 2,402 hours @ £25.00 per hour (cost permitted under the Act) = £60,050. This exemption is absolute and does not require us to consider the application of the public interest test.
3. Please refer to the response to question 2.
4. Please refer to the response to question 2.
5. Please see the table below. Note that the table provides the cost per bed day for patients with a primary diagnosis of ICD-10<sup>1</sup> with codes T36 to T50, according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

Financial Year	POD	Cost per Bed Day
2020-21	Non-Elective Long	£922
	Non-Elective Short	£769
2021-22	Non-Elective Long	£704
	Non-Elective Short	£599

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<sup>1</sup> [ICD-10 Version:2019 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241565748)