

9 August 2018

Dear ,

ATISN - 12491 - Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 July 2018. You asked for the following information relating to a study undertaken by the Royal College Psychiatrists between March 2013 to April 2014:

1. For the same period as this study, how many reports of brain damage were reported to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

Following a discussion with our Clinical Leads within Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, I have established that the information you require is not held by ourselves.

2. What age is the youngest person to have Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) in Wales? Were they given ECT as a 'last resort', as recommended by NICE guidelines?

This request exceeds the appropriate cost limit for responding to Freedom of Information requests – please see explanation below.

3. What age is the oldest person to have ECT in Wales? Were they given ECT as a 'last resort', as recommended by NICE guidelines

This request exceeds the appropriate cost limit for responding to Freedom of Information requests – please see explanation below.

From my preliminary assessment I estimate that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to answer questions 2 and 3. The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

Gwirio bod pobl yng Nghymru
yn derbyn gofal da

Checking people in Wales are
receiving good care

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government
Parc Busnes Rhydycar / Rhydycar Business Park
Merthyr Tudful / Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1UZ
Tel / Ffôn 0300 062 8379
Fax / Ffacs 0300 062 8387
www.hiw.org.uk

The Second Opinion Appointed Doctors (SOAD) database was put in place in April 2015 and the time period considered was prior to this and would necessitate accessing archived individual patient records. A Clinical Advisor would have to review 610 individual patient records to determine which patients had received ECT and we have estimated this taking at least 57.5 hours. Consequently, I have decided not to provide you with the information you have requested.

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: Freedomofinformation@gov.wales

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.

You also asked whether we believed that ECT is being offered as 'last resort' as advised by NICE guidelines. As this is not asking for recorded information but rather is asking for an opinion, this is not a valid FoI request.

SOADs act as a safeguard for the rights of patients who are detained under the Mental Health Act and will establish whether ECT is appropriate for each individual patient. However, where ECT is given to a patient under 18, a request for authorisation by a SOAD must be made irrespective of whether the patient is detained or not.

Yours sincerely