



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## E-mail request

Our ref: ATISN 15628  
Date: 22 November 2021

Dear

### ATISN 15628

Thank you for your request which I received on 25 October 2021. You asked for the following information:

1. How many people have died because of infection by Covid ONLY?
2. How many people have died from something but Covid infection may have had an influence?
3. How many people have died from something but because a Covid test was positive within 28 days of the death the cause of death has INCORRECTLY been attributed to Covid?
4. How much of the apparent increase in infection is because of routine tests on people showing no symptoms?

I can confirm Welsh Government does not hold the information requested. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collect and produce the most comprehensive mortality statistics for England and Wales based on information collected during the death registration process. Some of your questions can be answered by their publications:

1. The ONS publish [quarterly information](#) on the number of death certificates where the death was due to COVID-19 that had no pre-existing conditions listed.
2. ONS also publish [weekly](#) statistics on deaths involving Covid-19. This is where Covid-19 was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate as a contributory cause of the death.
3. When certifying the involvement of Covid-19 on the death certificate, a positive test result is not required. Medical practitioners certify the causes of a death to the best of their knowledge of the patient. They can list all causes in the chain of events that led to the death and pre-existing conditions that may have contributed to the death. For further information on this data, please contact the ONS at [health.data@ons.gov.uk](mailto:health.data@ons.gov.uk).
4. The Welsh Government does not hold this information. Public Health Wales have provided the following information on testing: "We do not routinely report on symptoms in relation to overall case data and are not aware of 'routine' PCR testing of asymptomatic individuals taking place, other than in hospital patients. Some health boards have carried out asymptomatic community testing pilots, but we are not aware of any taking place at the moment.

We do monitor incidence of PCR testing and of positivity and that information is available via our [dashboard](#); data at a local authority level is available in the bi-weekly report available on the Local Authority tab of the dashboard.

‘Routine’ testing of asymptomatic individuals via lateral flow devices would take place in certain settings. A positive lateral flow test should prompt the individual to have a PCR test, therefore an increase in lateral flow testing could result in an increase in positive lateral flow tests and subsequently positive PCR tests. The weekly Lateral Flow report provides information on trends in lateral flow testing and is available to download from the lateral flow tab on the dashboard.”

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: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@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.

Yours sincerely