

Dear

ATISN 27239 – Access to Healthcare

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 21 July 2026, regarding the impact of domestic abuse and coercive or controlling behaviour on access to healthcare, including delayed diagnosis or treatment of physical illnesses. You requested the following information:

1. *Does your organisation collect or hold any national data relating to patients whose access to healthcare has been delayed, prevented or restricted because of domestic abuse or coercive or controlling behaviour? If so, please provide:*
 - *any recorded statistics;*
 - *the period covered;*
 - *the methodology used.*
2. *Please provide any research, audits, evaluations, reviews or reports since 1 January 2020 examining whether domestic abuse or coercive control has contributed to:*
 - *delayed GP attendance;*
 - *delayed cancer diagnosis;*
 - *delayed diagnosis of other serious physical illnesses;*
 - *missed outpatient appointments;*
 - *missed screening appointments;*
 - *delayed emergency treatment; or*
 - *poorer health outcomes.*
3. *Please provide any policy papers, briefing notes or guidance recognising preventing access to healthcare as a form of coercive control or domestic abuse.*
4. *Has your organisation received, reviewed or commissioned any analysis arising from Adult Support and Protection Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews, Significant Case Reviews or other statutory reviews identifying perpetrators preventing victims from obtaining medical treatment? If so, please provide copies or summaries.*
5. *Are NHS Wales Health Boards required to record where domestic abuse is identified as a contributing factor in delayed diagnosis or delayed treatment?*
 - *If yes, please provide the relevant guidance.*
 - *If no, please confirm that no such national requirement exists.*
6. *Please provide any correspondence or policy discussions since 1 January 2020 concerning whether NHS Wales should collect data relating to healthcare being withheld or delayed because of domestic abuse or coercive control.*

Our Response

Welsh Government does not hold the information you are seeking.

Q1

Welsh Government are not aware of any routine national dataset held that specifically records whether a person's access to healthcare was delayed, prevented or restricted as a direct result of domestic abuse, coercive control or controlling behaviour.

Local Health Boards and Public Health Wales may hold relevant information, such as individual patient records, safeguarding records, or domestic abuse service records. The contact details for the local health boards and Public Health Wales can be found [here](#)

Q2 & Q3

Domestic Homicide Reviews are governed by the Home Office and prior to October 2024 have been delivered by the Community Safety Partnerships in Wales. All of these reviews have been published and can be accessed in the [DHR library](#).

Adult and child practice reviews in Wales prior to October 2024 have been delivered and published by the six Regional Safeguarding Boards across Wales, and you can visit the [NISB website](#) for their contacts, should you wish to get in touch and request copies of these.

Since October 2024, adult and child practice reviews, domestic homicide reviews and mental health homicide reviews have been combined into the Single Unified Safeguarding Review. All of these reviews are published by the Regional Safeguarding Board that they have been commissioned by.

Therefore, all of these reviews will have been undertaken through boards and partnerships across Wales and given the nature of your request we would recommend that you contact them directly for the information requested.

Q4

Welsh Government does not hold this information.

Q5

With regards to recording delayed diagnosis or treatment, there is no national requirement for NHS Wales Health Boards to record domestic abuse as a contributing factor in delayed diagnosis or delayed treatment.

Q6

Welsh Government does not hold this information.

To note, there may be relevant information held in SAIL databank and [the data catalogue can be searched online](#) and we are aware that Welsh academics have undertaken relevant work using SAIL databank e.g. [Linking Police and Healthcare Data to Identify Vulnerable people](#).

Next Steps

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

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,