

## Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

File reference	W20FOI391
Key words	Deaths Between February and November 2020 With and From Covid-19
Date of release	15/01/2021
Attachments	No

### You asked

**1. How many deaths between 1st Feb 2020 and 30th Nov 2020 were 'from' Covid-19?**

The Trust considers five or fewer deaths were related to patients who died following a positive Covid-19 test result that did not have a pre-existing condition.

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust takes the view that the actual number requested is too low to be disclosed. The information is considered exempt from further supply in accordance with section 41(1)(a) and (b) of the 2000 Act. The Trust received the information in confidence and it cannot be shared.

**2. How many deaths between 1st Feb 2020 and 30th Nov 2020 were 'with' Covid-19?**

The numbers of Covid-19 deaths are recorded on the NHS England website at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/> reference tab 4 and RK9 for University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.

**3. How many of those patients who died 'with' or 'from' Covid-19 had pre-existing conditions or co-morbidities which would have contributed to the death?**

Please refer to our response to questions 1 and 2.

**4. How were the patients who died, 'with' or 'from' Covid-19, diagnosed with this disease, and specifically, what kind of testing/assessment procedures were used to reach a conclusive diagnosis?**

Testing was performed using molecular real time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which is verified to United Kingdom Accreditation Service standards.

**5. For the patients who died 'with' or 'from' Covid-19, how would their level of illness be categorized? Eg: asymptomatic, mild symptoms, severe**

**symptoms, cytokine storm achieved (with  
deadly inflammatory response)**

If a death certificate says that Covid was the cause of death (i.e. died from it) then their symptoms were severe enough to lead to their death. If it was mentioned in part 2 of the Death Certificate (i.e. died with it) it was a co-existing significant condition that contributed to the person's death but was not directly related to the disease or condition causing it.

**Legal notes**

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust is confirming in accordance with section 1 (a) of the Act that it holds the information requested and is supplying it in accordance with section 1(b) unless it is information provided in confidence and exempt from supply by virtue of section 41(1)(a) and (b).

A five or fewer figure is provided balancing both your rights as the applicant with that of the confider. You have the right to appeal. Please refer to the internal review section below, if you wish to pursue that option.

Data is only recorded from 01/03/2020. Prior to this the information is not held.

**Attachments included:** No