

Ref no: 146210319
From: Commercial
Date: 21/03/19
Subject: Pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma. 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

REQUEST

Can you please provide me with the number of patients diagnosed with peritoneal mesothelioma for each of the following years; 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, as well as the number of patients diagnosed with pleural mesothelioma for each of the following years; 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016?

If the number of cases diagnosed for any of the above years are too small for you to report on then please state for which year/s this applies and whether this applies to peritoneal mesothelioma or pleural mesothelioma. Furthermore, where the number of diagnosed cases are too small to be reported, please state the minimal number of diagnosed cases which must exist to be reportable through Freedom of Information requests?

RESPONSE

Number of patients with a diagnosis of peritoneal mesothelioma or pleural mesothelioma, during an inpatient stay. The stay may or may not be related to the diagnosis. The patient may have previously been diagnosed therefore will be counted twice if they have had more than one inpatient stay.

	Peritoneal mesothelioma	Pleura mesothelioma
2013	< 5	< 5
2014	< 5	8
2015	< 5	< 5
2016	< 5	< 5

We are unable to provide precise figures when these are five or less due to the risk that individuals will be identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.