

	Questions asked by Bereaved families for justice Cymru, following the meeting with the Minister for Health and Social Services	Welsh Government Response
1	Why, if mortality reviews have been mandated for hospital deaths since 2013 why have HAC deaths still not been independently investigated by most health boards?	Mortality reviews have continued to be undertaken throughout the pandemic, but health boards have also had to face unprecedented other challenges. Health boards have had to redeploy many staff to manage the response to the pandemic. This has included staff who would have been involved in investigation work, which in some cases has had an impact on timings.
2	Why have no loved ones been asked their concerns as part of this scrutiny?	The Chief Nursing Officer and Deputy Chief Medical Officer have written to health boards/trusts to reiterate the importance of engaging with patients and families and asked that they make every effort to respond to questions and concerns in a timely manner. The requirement to consider the most appropriate way of involving the complainant in the investigation is set out in the Putting Things Right (PTR) Regulations, and is unchanged.
3	The Health Minister stated that hospital death investigations are standard but stopped during the pandemic. When did the standard investigation process stop and start again?	Investigation work did not formally stop and start. The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and resulted in significant challenges, including being able to conduct investigation work in a timely manner.
4	Why have the 2 health boards you confirmed had completed their investigations been able to complete their investigations without the £4.5m investment?	At the start of the pandemic, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer wrote to health boards/trusts indicating that PTR arrangements should still be complied with. Health boards have encountered different workforce challenges and have had to respond accordingly. The £4.54M funding announced in January by the Minister for Health and Social Services will enable health boards/trusts to deliver their programme of investigation work at pace.

	hospital acquired due to any failings by the health board?	
12	ICNet infection database - why was this not working effectively during the pandemic?	Problems were identified with the outbreak module of ICNeT which have since been addressed. Refresher training has been provided for health board/trust Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) teams. Throughout the pandemic Welsh Government has collected comprehensive outbreak reporting data from health boards.
The new framework		
13	Will the investigations under the new framework be independently investigated?	The Framework, by reiterating PTR, establishes that investigations must be undertaken in line with usual organisational processes under PTR, including that investigations must be undertaken by appropriately trained people in a timely manner. PTR guidance states at section 6.50 that the investigators should be independent of and have played no part in the actual issues under investigation.
14	How is cost split across - Investigation/improvements/benchmarking etc?	Costs are not disaggregated in that way. Funding has been provided to complete investigation work and learning from investigations will remain a key focus.
15	How is the efficacy of the new framework being monitored?	Monitoring the implementation of the Framework will be part of the assurance work undertaken by the NHS Wales Delivery Unit (DU). Welsh Government will receive regular progress reports from the DU.
16	What does the success of the new framework look like?	Measures of success will include: all patient investigations are completed to a good standard; learning is identified and used to improve