

Questions to Board 25 March 2026

Question 6:

Will the Health Board commit to reviewing this policy with the aim of enabling earlier access to English hospitals for Powys patients, and can a clear timeline for that review be shared publicly?

PTHB response

The policy is due to be reviewed as part of the development of our Annual Plan for 2026/27 which is due to be presented to the meeting of the Board on 25 March 2026. The agenda and papers, as well as a livestream link to watch the meeting, are normally available a week in advance from our website: Board Meetings - Powys Teaching Health Board.

There is also the opportunity for members of the public to submit questions to the board relating to the matters under discussion at the meeting. Information about the submission of questions will be available alongside the papers for the meeting of the Board on 25 March once they are published.

Blip further questions on PTHB response

When the policy is reviewed as part of the **2026/27 Annual Plan**, will the Health Board:

- Publish evidence used in the review
- Consult directly with patients affected by long waits?
- Will the Board commit to **considering earlier access to English hospitals** where capacity exists?
- What **specific criteria** would trigger a change to the current policy?

Response:

In supporting the Annual Plan for 2026/27, the health board reaffirmed its commitment to commission based on NHS Wales performance standards including that no patient waits longer than 104 weeks for treatment. This is in line with the standards set for health boards in Wales by Welsh Government.

Our plans and priorities will continue to be kept under ongoing review including through our Integrated Quality and Performance Reports presented every two months to each ordinary meeting of the Board, and through our quarterly reports on delivery of the Annual Plan.

