



Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

Information Governance Team  
Monnow Ward  
Bronllys Hospital  
Bronllys  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 0LY  
Email: Powys.FOI@wales.nhs.uk  
Tel: 01686 252159/01874 442071

Our ref: IG/FOI/23.R.296

4 October 2023

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 21 August 2023 and subsequent clarification received on 11 September 2023, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partly holds the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and our response follows:

### Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I'm writing to request the following information:

#### **Lip biopsies**

1. In which unit(s) in which hospital(s) or other establishment(s) in your health board area are lip biopsies conducted on the NHS?
2. How many lip biopsies have been conducted on the NHS within your health board area within the last 12 month or other period for which you have data? Please indicate the period for which you are providing data.
3. How many out of area lip biopsy referrals has the NHS within your area made within the last 12 month or other period for which you have data? Please indicate the period for which you are providing data.

#### **Neuro-ophthalmology**

4. Which unit(s) in which hospital(s) or other establishment(s) within your Healthboard area have a NHS neuro-ophthalmologist consultant providing neuro-ophthalmology services on the NHS.
5. Please provide the name(s) of the consultant(s) in each case. I assume that this is publicly available data and so is not exempted under the Freedom of Information Act.

Out of area referral policies

Pencadlys  
Tŷ Glasbury, Ysbyty Bronllys,  
Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LU  
Ffôn: 01874 711661



Headquarters  
Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital  
Brecon, Powys LD3 0LU  
Tel: 01874 711661

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg  
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithredd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol  
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh  
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of  
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

6. I'm also requesting copies of Health Board out of area referral policies, guidance, strategies/plans.

Clarification Request:

The service have asked if Question 6 can be narrowed down.

6. I'm also requesting copies of Health Board out of area referral policies, guidance, strategies/plans.

Clarification Response:

As I understand it, most health boards will have just one out of area policy and one strategy. I worded the request as I did as different health boards seem to use different descriptions (e.g. "policy" or instead "procedure").

I'm therefore not sure how I could narrow it down in sense requested without knowing how your health board describes/entitles the relevant documents. However, to narrow it down in other ways, could you please just provide the documents which are in-force (as opposed to e.g. ones which have been superseded).

In addition, if it would be easier, could u provide a list of all your in force out of area referral policies, guidance, strategies/plans etc and then I will be able to narrow it down further.

Powys Response:

Q1 Lip biopsies are no longer undertaken in PTHB. These were previously carried out at Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

Q2 There has been a total of 29 inpatient lip biopsy procedures recorded since 2014. There were no recorded outpatient lip biopsy procedures within PTHB in the last 12 months. There has been a total of 6 outpatient lip biopsy procedures within PTHB (Llandrindod Wells Hospital, Builth Wells Hospital and Brecon War Memorial) recorded since 2014.

Q3 We are unable to report on referrals for a specific procedure that go to other Health Boards. We can report on coded inpatient activities in other Health boards. There has been a total of 27 recorded inpatient lip biopsy procedures for Powys residents outside of PTHB since 2014.

Q4, Q5 and Q6 PTHB does not provide Neuro ophthalmology.

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied, with the way your request has been dealt with by PTHB, you have the right to request a review in which case you should write to:

Chief Executive  
Powys Teaching Health Board Headquarters  
Glasbury House  
Bronllys Hospital  
Bronllys  
Brecon

Powys LD3 0LY

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,

Churchill House,

Churchill Way,

Cardiff, CF10 2HH

Tel: 029 2067 8400 Fax 029 2067 8399

[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

[twitter.com/iconews](https://twitter.com/iconews)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.

Yours sincerely



**Joy Garfitt**

**Director of Operations/ Director of Community & Mental Health**