

Our ref: IG/FOI/23.R.167

22 June 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 24 May 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:

Q1 I am part of a team working on a project to improve the lives of women after childbirth. Currently, early diagnosis of sphincter damage during natural childbirth is the subject of many scientific studies. We want to take a closer look at this problem as we are aware that diagnosis of this condition is necessary to define a prompt therapeutic strategy and thus avoid the development of further consequences, such as faecal or urinary incontinence. Bearing in mind that the problem affects many women all over the world, we want to gather information on the solutions used in different countries in this field. How is this coped with in UK?

Q2 Therefore, I would like to ask you whether the standard perinatal diagnosis of sphincter damage in UK is a screening test that is a guaranteed, publicly funded service?

Q3 Are there any regulations, i.e. laws, legal acts that clearly stipulate what procedures a doctor should follow during natural childbirth?

Q4 Please indicate also the specific legal rules, including regulations and systemic restrictions regarding the above.

Q5 In addition, do you have information on the number of medical procedures performed under the ICD-10 codes in 2019-2023 in UK?

070 Bristning af mellemkød og slimhinder ved fødsel

0700 Fødselslæsion grad 1

0701 Fødselslæsion grad 2

0702 Fødselslæsion grad 3

0703 Fødselslæsion grad 4

0709 Fødselslæsion i mellemkød og slimhinder UNS

1. 071 - other obstetric trauma, incl.: 071.8

2. R15-incontinence

Powys Response:

Q1 As a Health board we do not have any Obstetric units and refer women in for assessment and treatment of any suspected 3rd or 4th degree tear which involves sphincter damage.

Q2 – Q5 Sphincter damage is reviewed in Obstetrics and Gynaecology which we do not provide in Powys Teaching Health Board as we do not have any district general hospitals.

NOTE: Q5 Codes were checked via Clinical Coding to produce the data in the table below. This includes data for Powys residents delivering in Powys for the years 2019 to 2023 inclusive based on the primary or secondary diagnosis. Descriptions are provided in English for clarity.

| Coding | Description | Count |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| 0700 | First degree perineal laceration during delivery | 327 |
| 0701 | Second degree perineal laceration during delivery | 216 |
| 0702 | Third degree perineal laceration during delivery | 17 |
| 0709 | Perineal laceration during delivery, unspecified | 15 |
| 0714 | Obstetric high vaginal laceration | 1 |
| 0715 | Other obstetric injury to pelvic organs | 1 |
| 0718 | Other specified obstetric trauma | 2 |

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
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff, CF10 2HH
Tel: 029 2067 8400 Fax 029 2067 8399
www.ico.org.uk 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