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Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Information Governance Team
Hafren 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.406

15 December 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 23 November 2023, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold 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:

For each of the years 2018-2023 please can you provide the following information under the FOI Act:

1. If the health board has met the safe maternity levels
2. The number of days where the safe maternity levels were not met
3. The number of times each of the below red flag midwifery staffing incidents occurred in your health board.
 - a. Delayed or cancelled time critical activity.
 - b. Missed or delayed care (for example, delay of 60 minutes or more in washing and suturing).
 - c. Missed medication during an admission to hospital or midwifery-led unit (for example, diabetes medication).
 - d. Delay of more than 30 minutes in providing pain relief.
 - e. Delay of 30 minutes or more between presentation and triage.
 - f. Full clinical examination not carried out when presenting in labour.
 - g. Delay of 2 hours or more between admission for induction and beginning of process.
 - h. Delayed recognition of and action on abnormal vital signs (for example,

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



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



sepsis or urine output).

- i. Any occasion when 1 midwife is not able to provide continuous one-to-one care and support to a woman during established labour.

Powys Response:

Q1 I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) has maintained safe maternity staffing levels throughout the last 5 years with the exception of overnight on call, where we have been in red escalation as follows:

- 2021 2 red escalations.
- 2022 1 red escalation.
- 2023 9 red escalations.

(We have no electronic data for red escalations prior to 2021)

Red escalations usually occur due to short term sickness or a delay in appointing to a vacant post. There is a plan in place for when this happens, and we only close the service in the North or South of the county if there are no other options open to us such as centralising care.

Q2 Not applicable.

Q3a Not applicable. If PTHB was unable to provide a time critical appointment, the woman would be directed to the nearest district general hospital (DGH).

Q3b–g Not applicable.

Q3h None.

Q3i One occasion in 2021 where a woman was directed to a DGH for intrapartum care due to the service being on red escalation.

Please note, PTHB is a midwifery led service and as such does not provide the obstetric level of care as a DGH does, so it does not offer prescribed medication or ongoing pain relief. Powys women are cared for on a 1:1 basis and are offered all the support they need in relation to washing or suturing and are assessed in a timely manner.

When on red escalation due to staffing shortages, the North / South divide of the county would mean that women would be centralised initially to offer intrapartum care' and if this became challenging the woman would be advised to attend a DGH for her safety.

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



Louise Turner
Assistant Director of Women & Children's

On behalf of

Joy Garfitt
Director of Operations/ Director of Community & Mental Health