



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.369

22 November 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 26 October 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:

I would like to submit three FOIs regarding the conduct of hospitals within the Health Boards during the period of 24 months from, and including, March 2020. These are with regards to hospital admissions; patient testing; facilities for staff.

1. How many patients were transferred between each hospital site for admission due to Covid-19 each month for a period of 24 months from and including March 2020?
2. During this period, how were patients tested, for the Covid-19 virus? How frequent were these tests? What was the exact procedure in these instances?
3. What facilities were made available for hospital staff to change and/or shower before, during, and after their shifts for a period of 24 months from and including March 2020?

### Powys Response:

1. As a community rural hospital service, patients would not routinely transfer between sites. Although it is possible for patients to transfer between hospitals to move nearer to family, friends and carers, this would not be the case if the patient had Covid-19.

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



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



2. Patients were tested in line with All Wales guidance which is accessible via: [42350 Community testing framework English \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/42350-community-testing-framework-english). Timelines of how guidance changed can be accessed through the Senedd Research website [Coronavirus: testing \(senedd.wales\)](https://senedd.wales/coronavirus-testing).

In Powys, this was achieved by patients being swab tested by ward staff and samples placed in the 'covid run' transport run to the University Hospital of Wales for PCR processing. Ad hoc transport was also available.

3. Staff were asked to change into uniform once they arrived at work and shower (where possible) and change, before returning home. Showering facilities were made available on each site but were limited due to the age and configuration of the estates in Powys.

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



**Mererid Bowley**  
Director of Public Health



**Claire Roche**  
Director of Nursing & Midwifery