



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

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.331

13 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 20 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 write in relation to the length of time families are waiting for their babies with tongue-tie to have the tongue-tie division procedure under the NHS in Wales.

Please can you address the following questions, for each calendar year, 2021 and 2022:

Q1 How many babies were diagnosed with a tongue-tie?

Q2 How many babies required the tongue-tie division procedure?

Q3 How many babies received the tongue-tie division procedure?

Q4 What was the average waiting time for babies with tongue-tie to receive the tongue-tie division procedure?

Q5 What is the current waiting time for babies to receive the tongue-tie division?

Q6 How many babies currently have the tongue-tie diagnosis?

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



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



Q7 How many babies are currently on the waiting list to receive the tongue-tie division?

Powys Response:

NOTE: Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) data regarding 'tongue ties' (restricted lingual frenulum) may be inaccurate as we have no formal data collection method currently as the procedure is not carried out within PTHB. Within Powys, all suspected 'tongue ties' will be seen via the specialist infant feeding service, which is currently being developed, for a consultation and the team will refer onwards if required. This will also enable accurate data collection around numbers, frenotomy percentage and follow up outcomes. The data we have provided below has been obtained from the Infant Feeding Coordinators (IFC) database, however, individual practitioners may have referred on to services without IFC knowledge. This data will not include babies who will have had the procedure undertaken following birth in a neighbouring district general hospital or have paid privately.

Q1 The number of babies diagnosed with a tongue-tie:

2021 – 10

2022 – 17

Q2 The number of babies who required the tongue-tie division procedure:

2021 – 8

2022 – 16

Q3 The number of babies who received the tongue-tie division procedure:

2021 – 8

2022 – 16

Q4 Please see note above.

Q5 The waiting time can vary, however, PTHB commissions Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) services from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and the waiting time can be up to six weeks.

Q6 PTHB does not currently employ any qualified tongue-tie practitioners who are able to 'diagnose' a restricted lingual frenulum.

Q7 There are currently no babies on the waiting list to receive the tongue-tie division.

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**