

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.139.24

8 January 2025

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 10 December 2024, 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.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I would like to make an application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information: (please provide the figures from January 2022 - present, in calendar years not fiscal).

I would appreciate it if you could categorise the information according to the hospital and the unit (e.g the Intensive Care Unit, A&E, etc.)

1a. How many members of hospital staff have been away from work with illness?

1b. Can you indicate how many of those staff noted a mental condition or stress as the main reason for their absence.

2. Of those, how many staff members have been absent from their work for a period of 2 months or longer?

3. Of those in question 1, how many staff members did not return to work after that period of illness?

4. Of those in question 3, what were the reasons behind them not returning to work?

5. How many job vacancies have there been in each Hospital over this period? (Please provide the information per hospital, per unit and per year please).

6. How many staff members have let the hospital know that they are feeling under pressure or suffering with stress? (Please provide the information per unit and per year please).

Powys Response:

To note, due to the rural and sparsely populated nature of Powys, we do not have district general hospital services such as Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Departments within the county. Our residents access their acute and specialist services in District General Hospitals (DGH) provided by neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England.

Q1a, Q1b, Q2 & Q3. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is unable to provide the information broken down by specific departments as requested due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less). PTHB believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified, when considered with other information already available within the public domain, if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing regarding Articles 5, 6, and 9 of UK GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA under the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance we have provided a total figure for each year requested.

Q1a. Please see the table below for the number of staff who have been away from work with illness broken down by hospital site:

Hospital	Calendar Years		
	2022	2023	2024
Brecon War Memorial Hospital	272	244	218
Bronllys Community Hospital	310	296	329
Knighton Community Hospital	30	19	23
Llandrindod Wells Memorial Hospital	146	131	145
Llanidloes War Memorial Hospital	55	47	52
Bro Ddyfi Hospital (Machynlleth)	53	53	53
Montgomeryshire County Infirmary (Newtown)	124	115	134
Victoria Memorial Hospital (Welshpool)	98	96	105
Ystradgynlais Community Hospital	115	112	99

Q1b. Please see the table below for the number of staff members noted a mental condition or stress as the main reason for their absence illness broken down by hospital site. Please Note: Our response for absence reason also covers anxiety, stress, depression and other psychiatric illnesses.

Hospital	Calendar Years Totals
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	2022	2023	2024
Brecon War Memorial Hospital	38	33	32
Bronllys Community Hospital	46	47	56
Knighton Community Hospital	1	1	4
Llandrindod Wells Memorial Hospital	18	12	20
Llanidloes War Memorial Hospital	5	7	7
Bro Ddyfi Hospital (Machynlleth)	6	10	9
Montgomeryshire County Infirmary (Newtown)	13	15	15
Victoria Memorial Hospital (Welshpool)	7	10	14
Ystradgynlais Community Hospital	14	21	19

Q2. Please see the table below for the number of staff members who had been absent from their work for a period of 2 months or longer illness broken down by hospital site:

Hospital	Calendar Years Totals		
	2022	2023	2024
Brecon War Memorial Hospital	35	32	32
Bronllys Community Hospital	29	27	45
Knighton Community Hospital	2	5	2
Llandrindod Wells Memorial Hospital	16	22	20
Llanidloes Hospital Total	7	4	2
Bro Ddyfi Hospital (Machynlleth)	6	9	11
Montgomeryshire County Infirmary (Newtown)	11	15	9
Victoria Memorial Hospital (Welshpool)	6	6	12
Ystradgynlais Community Hospital	24	15	11

Q3. Please see the table below for the number of staff members in relation to Q1 who did not return to work.

Hospital	Combined Total for 2022, 2023 & 2024
Brecon War Memorial Hospital	25
Bronllys Community Hospital	26
Knighton Community Hospital	4
Llandrindod Wells Memorial Hospital	16
Bro Ddyfi Hospital (Machynlleth)	14
Montgomeryshire County Infirmary (Newtown)	6
Victoria Memorial Hospital (Welshpool)	3
Ystradgynlais Community Hospital	13

Q4. I can confirm PTHB does not hold this information, therefore this is a nil response.

Q5. PTHB does not record the number of job vacancies. Please see the table below for the number of jobs advertised, some of which may be for the same role:

Vacancy Location Name	Area	Calendar Years		
		2022	2023	2024

Brecon War Memorial Hospital	Adult Therapies	7	4	0
	Audiology	6	6	5
	CAMHs	3	2	2
	Community Hospital Services	1	0	1
	Dental	0	0	1
	Facilities	6	9	4
	Hospital Nursing	25	14	20
	Nursing Directorate	0	1	0
	Specialist Nursing	2	3	2
	Theatre	12	12	15
	Women & Children's Services	0	1	2
	Women & Children's Therapies	0	4	1
Brecon War Memorial Hospital Total		62	56	53
Bro Ddyfi Hospital (Machynlleth)	Adult Therapies	0	1	0
	Facilities	4	4	5
	Hospital Nursing	5	8	6
Bro Ddyfi Hospital Total		9	13	11
Bronllys Community Hospital	Adult Therapies	11	12	9
	ASD Assessments	4	7	3
	CAMHs	1	2	1
	Community Hospital Services	4	6	1
	Corporate	8	7	9
	Corporate Governance	3	11	4
	Digital & Information Services	21	6	8
	Estates & Works	9	8	3
	Facilities	22	11	4
	Finance		1	2
	Hospital Nursing	21	17	14
	Mental Health Services	4	3	2
	Nursing Directorate	11	3	2
	People & Culture	41	31	29
	Public Health	3	9	3
	Quality & Safety	5	2	5
	Specialist Nursing	4	7	5
	Therapies & Health Sciences	1	1	1
	Transformation & Value	10	5	4
Women & Children Services	2	1	2	
Women & Children Therapies	2	7	1	
Bronllys Community Hospital Total		187	157	112
Knighton Community Hospital	Facilities	1	4	4
	Hospital Nursing	5	0	0
Knighton Community Hospital Total		6	4	4
Llandrindod Wells County War Memorial Hospital	Community Hospital Services	6	1	5
	Facilities	7	1	10
	Hospital Nursing	18	4	16
	Specialist Nursing	2	0	0

	Theatre	1	2	3
	Women & Children Services	4	1	5
Llandrindod Wells County War Memorial Hospital Total		38	9	39
Llanidloes and District War Memorial Hospital	Facilities	2	1	4
	Hospital Nursing	7	7	5
Llanidloes and District War Memorial Hospital Total		9	8	9
Montgomeryshire County Infirmary (Newtown)	Adult Therapies	33	42	35
	Community Hospital Services	0	1	0
	Contact Centre	3	5	2
	Estates & Works	0	1	0
	Facilities	0	3	5
	Hospital Nursing	3	4	9
Montgomeryshire County Infirmary Total		39	56	51
Victoria Memorial Hospital (Welshpool)	Adult Therapies	0	1	0
	Facilities	3	0	5
	Hospital Nursing	11	10	14
Victoria Memorial Hospital Total		14	11	19
Ystradgynlais Community Hospital	Facilities	5	8	2
	Hospital Nursing	0	2	6
	Specialist Nursing	1	0	0
Ystradgynlais Community Hospital Total		6	10	8
Estates Work Department	Estates & Works	5	8	5
Estates/ Works Department Total		5	8	5
Occupational Health	Quality & Safety	0	0	1
Occupational Health Total		0	0	1

Q6. We do not record this information on the system for recording sickness levels.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request, please contact us directly at the address below or register your complaint via powysfoi.foi@wales.nhs.uk

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 0330 414 6421.

Yours sincerely



Mark McIntyre
Deputy Director for People and Culture

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.