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Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

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Our ref: IG/FOI/24.R.303

19 August 2024

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 31 July 2024, 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 my response follows.

### Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the services provided by Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs) for children and young people who stammer in Wales.

1. Do you offer speech and language therapy services for children and young people who stammer? If so, what is the age range for this service?
2. How are children and young people who stammer referred to the speech and language therapy service, and what are the referral criteria?
3. Do you have a Clinical Lead for stammering in your children and young people service? As of July 2024, how many speech and language therapists work directly with children and young people who stammer?
4. If you do not have access to a Clinical lead SaLT (Speech and Language Therapist) for stammering, or other stammering specialist SaLTs, how do you manage more complex stammering cases?
5. Who commissions speech and language therapy stammering services for children and young people? Do third sector organisations fund or contribute to

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg  
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithred Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol  
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh  
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of  
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

funding speech and language therapy services for children and young people who stammer?

6. How many children and young people were awaiting an assessment by an SLT for stammering in July 2023 and in July 2024?

7. As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, could you provide the waiting times from referral to initial assessment for children and young people referred for stammering? Please categorise the data into the following timeframes: less than 12 weeks, 12 to 18 weeks, 19 to 26 weeks, 27 to 52 weeks, 1 to 2 years, and over 2 years.

8. As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, could you provide the waiting times from initial assessment to the start of therapy for children and young people referred for stammering? Please categorise the data into the following timeframes: less than 12 weeks, 12 to 18 weeks, 19 to 26 weeks, 27 to 52 weeks, 1 to 2 years, and over 2 years.

9. How many sessions do SaLTs typically provide to children and young people who stammer (e.g. once a week for six weeks)

10. Are Independent Patient Funding Requests utilised for speech and language therapy services? If so, could these requests be made for children and young people who stammer to access specialist services outside of Wales?

11. Would you ever refer or signpost children and young people who stammer to a specialist service or centre outside of your board area? If so, how often has this occurred between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024?

- Never
- Sometimes
- Frequently
- Very Frequently

12. Do you provide information about and/or do you signpost to other organisations who can offer support for childhood stammering? If so, who do you signpost to?

- Action for Stammering Children
- STAMMA
- Michael Palin Centre
- Other (please specify)

13. What therapy approaches (e.g. Palin PCI, Lidcombe, etc.) do your speech and language therapy service offer to children and young people who stammer? Do you offer individual or group therapy to children who stammer, or both?

14. Where do your SaLTs access their specialist training from?

- Michael Palin Centre
- City Lit London
- Online

- CENs
- In service training
- Other (please specify)

15. What barriers exist to your SaLTs accessing necessary training courses in stammering? (e.g. cost and funding, availability of specialised courses, time out of clinic, high staff turnover, institutional support, etc.)

16. What information is provided to education setting staff about stammering? Would this information typically be provided for individual children and young people on your caseload or as part of education setting staff training more generally?

Powys Response:

Q1. I can confirm Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does offer Speech and Language therapy services for children and young people who stammer. The age range for this service offered is 0 to 18 years old.

Q2. PTHB accept all referrals if there are concerns around stammering. Referrals can be made by parents, Health Visitors, nurseries, preschool settings, schools, general practices, school nurses and allied health professionals.

Q3. PTHB has one Clinical Lead for stammering. The health board also has two further Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs) who have received further training on stammering. All SaLTs work directly with children and their families under 7 who stammer, once they have completed Palin Parent Child Interaction (PCI) training. As of August 2024, we have seven SaLTs who have received Palin PCI training, and they will see under 7s who stammer. Currently we have two SaLTs who have training with over 7s, and work with this client group.

Q4. The Clinical Specialist SaLT supports the rest of the team with cases, and accesses supervision as required.

Q5. I can confirm we have no external funding for this caseload.

Q6. As of 31 July 2024, PTHB currently has eight children and young people waiting on assessment for stammering. I can confirm data is not available for 2023.

Q7. I can confirm the maximum waiting time for these assessments is 14 weeks.

Q8. All pre and primary school children offered Parent workshop on stammering "Getting the Word Out" (GTWO) within 8 weeks of referral.

Q9. PCI therapy for under 7's occurs once a week, for 6 weeks.  
Family communication skills for over 7s occurs once a week, for up to 6 weeks.

Q10. If clinicians feel it is clinically appropriate for a PTHB resident to access SaLT services that are either not routine commissioned / provided by PTHB services or where the clinician feels an alternative provider would be the better option, a funding application can be submitted for consideration via the Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR)/ Prior Approval process.

We have checked our records over the last 3 years and are unable to find any SaLT applications for IPFR.

Q11. I can confirm PTHB sometimes refers or signpost children and young people who stammer to a specialist service or center outside of our health board area. In the last year, PTHB has referred one patient to Michael Palin Centre and have signposted 2-3 families to Swindon fluency trust.

Q12. I can confirm information and signposting to Action for Stammering Children, STAMMA and Michael Palin Centre are all done through the GTWO parent workshop and email.

Q13. Please see the list below for PTHB therapy approaches that we offer to children and young people who stammer.

- Palin PCI (within community)
- Family communication skills/working with 8-14s – Michael Palin Centre
- Swindon Packs

Groups have previously been attempted in Powys, but with limited success due to geographical distances and attendance. We work with the whole family, on 1:1 basis.

Q14. PTHB SaLTs access their specialist training from the below list.

- Michael Palin Centre - Palin PCI, 8-14s
- CENs - Access to study days with National Stammering CEN, SW CEN.

Q15. Ensuring that our Band 5s have access to Palin PCI stammering so that all under 7s can be seen in a timely manner within their own community. It is a challenge regarding keeping on top of this with turnover of Band 5 staff.

Q16. The information we currently provide is based upon individual children and their settings. We provide the "supporting children who stammer" video, as referenced in the All-Wales care pathway. We also signpost settings to Stamma and Michael Palin Centre websites.

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](mailto: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



**David Farnsworth**  
**Assistant Director, Community Services Group**

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.