

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.096.24

27 November 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 8 November 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.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am informed that Powys Teaching HB hold a contract with Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust covering ophthalmology. I would like to understand:

- 1) The start/ end date of the contract and the contract value
- 2) Does the contract cover "ophthalmology" or is it specific to pathways/ treatments? The patient I was talking to received wet AMD injections
- 3) How many patients a month receive care via SaTH?
- 4) Does the contract include transport and if so, roughly how many a month use publicly funded transport?
- 5) Does PTHB have long term plans to deliver this service in Wales within the Health Board geography?

Powys Response:

Q1. The start / end date of the contract is 1 April – 31 March. The contract value has been withheld as this is considered exempt under Section 43 Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if releasing the information is likely to

prejudice the commercial interests of any person (a person maybe an individual, company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the Health Board when deciding whether to release this information because it was felt that, in doing so, it could create a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the Health Boards in question.

As this is a qualified exemption the Health Board must consider the public interest in deciding whether to withhold or disclose the information. The Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency. However, the Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could discourage third parties from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn, this could jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. As a result, exemption section 43 is engaged as it is not considered in the public interest to disclose this information.

In NHS England (NHSE) the contract terms are in accordance with the NHS Payment Scheme payment by results with set tariffs which are available from NHS England ([NHS England » NHS Payment Scheme](#))

Q2. The contract covers all ophthalmology services that SaTH provides.

Q3. I can confirm an average of 370 patients (including paediatrics) receive care via SaTH each month. Please Note: This excludes drugs & devices across New Outpatient, Follow Up, Outpatient Procedure, New Non-Face to Face, Follow Up Non-Face to Face Day Case, Inpatient (elective and non-elective).

I can confirm that the in-reach consultant who visited once a month during 23-24 saw:

- 59 New Outpatients
- 120 Follow Up Patients
- 46 Did Not Attend

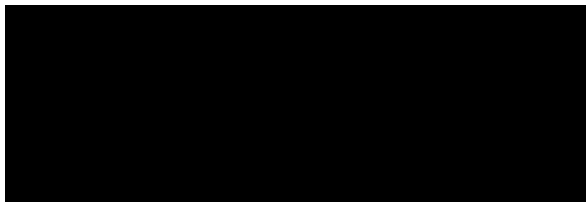
Q4. The contract does not include transport.

Q5. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) Commissions ophthalmology services for our resident population from Health Boards within Wales and also provides services within PTHB.

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



Chris Moss
Assistant Director of Performance and Commissioning

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.