

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.098.24

6 December 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 and my response follows.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

Q1. Please confirm the number of shifts sent to agencies for fulfilment per month for Band 5 and Band 6 Nurses, broken down by specialty (e.g., A&E, ITU) from June 2024 to October 2024.

Q2. Please confirm the number of shifts that were filled by agencies each month from June 2024 to October 2024.

Q3. Please confirm any specific days, weeks, or months during which agency usage is consistently highest.

Q4. Please provide the agency spend per month by nursing band (e.g., Band 5, Band 6) for agency nurses, from June 2024 to October 2024

Q5. Please provide a breakdown of the filled Nursing shifts by agency on a monthly basis over the period from June 2024 to October 2024.

Q6. Please confirm the number of Nursing hours filled by off-framework agencies, broken down by month, between June 2024 and October 2024.

Q7. Please provide details of the Health Boards spend per month for each nursing agency supplier during the period of June 2024 to October 2024.

Q8. Please confirm if a Preferred Supplier List (PSL) or tiered system is in place for Nursing agency engagement.

Q9. How many different agencies does the Health Board engage with monthly to fill nursing shifts, and is there a limit on the number of agencies used?

Q10. Does the Health Board have a projected agency usage plan for the coming year, and are there specific goals for reducing agency dependency?

Q11. If you answered yes to the above question, what are they?

Q12. Is there a long-term strategy in place to reduce agency nursing costs or transition to alternative staffing models?

Q13. If you answered yes to the above question, what are they?

Powys Response:

Q1. Please see the table below for number of shifts sent to agencies for fulfilment per month for Band 5 and Band 6 Nurses, broken down by specialty from June to October 2024.

Month	Band 5		Band 6	
	Mental Health	General	Mental Health	General
June	181	383	216	10
July	122	306	251	18
August	110	375	225	11
September	105	260	236	12
October	85	255	236	1

Q2. Please see the table below for number of shifts that were filled by agencies each month from June to October 2024.

Month	Band 5		Band 6	
	Mental Health	General	Mental Health	General
June	181	382	216	10
July	119	306	251	18
August	110	375	225	11
September	105	260	236	12
October	85	253	236	1

Q3. I can confirm there are no identifiable trends.

Q4. Please see the table below for total agency spend for Registered and Unregistered Nurses (Health Care Support Workers). Please Note: We do not record spend by nursing band.

Category	June	July	August	September	October
Registered General Nurse (RGN)	192,578	75,169	124,477	135,113	130,570

Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN)	231,443	102,806	115,152	171,318	98,348
Health Care Support Worker (HCSW)	229,793	362,149	158,106	257,211	230,525

Q5. Please see the table below for the breakdown of the filled Nursing shifts by agency on a monthly basis over the period from June 2024 to October 2024.

Agency name	Month				
	June	July	August	September	October
Eleventh Hour Group Ltd	7	3	19	12	25
Severn Angerls Healthcare Ltd	44	45	50	45	29
Ability Recruitment group Ltd	0	0	2	12	7
Asa medical solutions Ltd	9	7	7	6	3
Carepro Ltd	5	4	5	2	7
Concept care solutions Ltd	14	8	11	6	9
Direct medical Ltd	28	18	20	12	17
Direct Nursing Services Ltd	33	19	0	0	0
Enferm Medical Ltd	13	29	31	28	8
Hanson grey Ltd	12	13	28	21	18
Id Medical	7	1	6	0	0
Just nurses	17	13	7	0	0
Medacs Healthcare Plc	4	2	9	3	4
Medical professional personnel Ltd	0	0	7	0	0
MPS Healthcare Ltd	49	52	59	24	27
Mylocum Ltd	3	2	4	3	1
NC Healthcare Ltd	6	6	0	0	0
National Locums	0	8	4	0	0
Presto Healthcare Ltd	6	2	2	4	8
Pronursing Healthcare Ltd	3	5	3	11	5
Prohealth24 Health 24 Ltd	1	0	0	0	0
Pulse Healthcare Ltd	1	0	0	1	1
Pure Healthcare Group Ltd	23	18	6	10	11
Ranstad Solutions Ltd	19	17	27	11	20
Red sector Recruitment Ltd	6	0	10	0	0
Richmond Nursing Agency Ltd	7	8	9	6	4
RMR recruitment Ltd	0	0	7	9	10
Severn Resourcing Ltd	1	1	4	0	0
Staffing plus Ltd	15	7	10	6	5
Thornbury Nursing Solutions	39	20	25	35	23
Total assist	0	1	2	2	1
TXM Healthcare Ltd	2	5	0	0	0
Vetro Health Ltd	15	7	11	5	12
Your World Nursing Limited	2	0	0	0	0

Q6. Please see the table below for the number of Nursing hours filled by off-framework agencies, broken down by month, between June and October 2024.

Off Framework agencies	
Month	Hours
June	348.41
July	163.5
August	222.67
September	315.5
October	199

Q7. Please see the table below for PTHB's spend per month for each nursing agency supplier during the period of June to October 2024.

I can confirm the nursing agency supplier spend from June to October 2024 has been withheld as they are 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 agencies 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.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA under the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance we have provided a total spend for June to October 2024.

Supplier/ Debtor	Total (June - October 2024)
Ability Recruitment Group Ltd	39,936
Allied & Clinical Recruitments Ltd	3,907
Asa Medical Solution Ltd	20,662
Athona Ltd	31,444
Biggs Beit Ltd T/A Biggs Healthcare	1,318
Bluestones Medical	20,582
Carepro Ltd	80,209
Concept Care Solutions Ltd	18,654
Direct Medical Ltd	34,200

Direct Nursing Services Ltd	36,329
Eleventh Hour Group Ltd	36,249
Enferm Medical LTD	43,831
Gold Staff Recruitment Ltd	9,434
Hanson Grey Ltd	37,800
ID Medical	4,478
Independent Clinical Services Ltd TA Thornbury Nursing Services	470,006
Med Pure Ltd	5,910
Medacs Healthcare Plc	11,869
Medical Professional Personnel Ltd – T/A Nursing Personnel & MPP Locums	5,933
Medicspro Ltd	8,143
Mps Healthcare Ltd	118,350
Mylocum Ltd	123,101
National Locums	38,084
NC Healthcare Ltd	4,824
Presto Healthcare Ltd	20,371
Pro Health 24 Ltd	1,163
Pro Nursing Healthcare Ltd	105,413
Pulse Healthcare Ltd	6,607
Pure Healthcare Group Ltd	368,706
Randstad Solutions Ltd	109,333
Red Sector Recruitment Ltd	438,557
Richmond Nursing Agency Ltd	11,469
Seven Resourcing Ltd	16,322
Severn Angels Healthcare Ltd	158,816
Silver Blue Services Ltd T/A Springday Healthcare	6,680
Staffing Plus Ltd	25,183
The Placement Group Nursing Ltd	14,325
Total Assist Recruitment Ltd	14,521
TMX Healthcare Ltd	88,011
Vetro Health Ltd	20,507
Vivid Healthcare Search Ltd	15,835
Your Nurse Ltd	1,155
Your World Nursing Ltd	5,343
Total for Month	2,633,570

Q8. I can confirm the Nursing agency engagement is the All-Wales Agency Nurse Contract. Number: AW84976.

Q9. I can confirm there are 132 different agencies listed on the All-Wales contract that PTHB can engage with.

Q10. I can confirm there is no projected-usage plan other than to reduce overall agency usage. A variable pay group has been set up to review the use of agency and to ensure that we are taking steps to reduce.

Q11. Not applicable.

Q12. Yes, I can confirm there is a long-term strategy in place to reduce agency nursing costs or transition to alternative staffing models.

Q13. PTHB's long-term strategy in place to reduce agency nursing costs or transition to alternative staffing models is to recruit to substantive vacancies and review current establishments to ensure staffing levels are adequate.

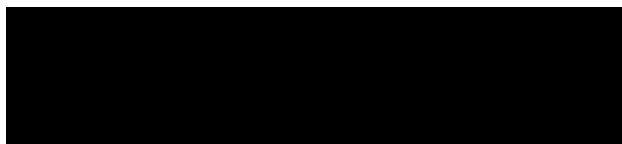
Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request, 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



Hywel Pullen
Deputy Director of Finance

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.