

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.107.24

10 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 12 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 each question individually.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (in bold):

I am contacting you as part of an initiative to explore and assess sustainable practices within NHS trusts. My focus includes understanding procurement, inventory management, and disposal practices for medical equipment, with particular attention to environmental impact and sustainability efforts. We aim to compile this information for analysis and to promote awareness of sustainable healthcare practices.

Please find the details of our request below. We have provided structured response options where applicable to ensure consistency and ease of analysis.

For this request, "medical equipment" includes reusable or single-use tools, devices, or machinery used for patient care, diagnosis, treatment, or monitoring (e.g., surgical instruments, diagnostic devices, monitoring equipment, and imaging machines).

Section 1: Hospital Demographics

1. Please indicate your trust/ hospital type and type of care:

1. Trust/ Hospital Type:

- a. Acute
- b. Mental Health
- c. Community**
- d. Ambulance

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



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

e. Other (please specify)

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is a Community Hospital.

2. Type of Care:

a. Secondary

b. Tertiary

c. Other (please specify)

3. Total Number of Beds: Please indicate the total number of inpatient beds in your hospital, including all types (e.g., general, ICU, maternity) if applicable.

I can confirm the Health Board has responded to a request recently of a similar nature which we feel answers the questions you raised. Please visit the following link to access the health board's disclosure log and the previous responses you need to review are listed below:

- **FOI 22.R.030**
- **FOI 23.R.299 (August)**
- **FOI 24.R.281 (July)**

[Disclosure Log - Powys Teaching Health Board](#)

4. ICU/ITU Bed Count: How many beds are designated for intensive or high-dependency care?

Due to the rural and sparsely populated nature of Powys, we do not have District General Hospital (DGH) services within the county. Our residents access their acute and Intensive Care Units (ICU)/ Intensive Therapy Units (ITU) services in DGH provided by neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England.

5. Annual Admissions: Please provide the total number of patient admissions in the last calendar year. If exact figures are unavailable, please provide your best estimate.

I can confirm the total admissions to PTHB hospitals for 01/12/2023 – 30/11/2024 was 3,467.

Section 2: Procurement and Inventory Management

6. Formal Procurement Policies: Does your hospital have formal policies or guidelines for medical equipment procurement?

a. Yes (please provide a copy or summary)

b. No

The following is an extract from the Management of Medical Devices & Equipment Policy:

Acquisition and Selection of Devices

All selection and purchase of equipment must be in conjunction with the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Procurement Services, considering all available guidelines in compliance with the user needs, compatibility with existing equipment and Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency guidelines (MHRA).

When a need has been identified for a new piece of equipment the EDOF process must be adhered to. The following criteria will need to be considered:

- **Case of need and risk assessment?**
- **Fitness for purpose?**
- **Do devices already exist within the unit, ward or department**
- **Have you liaised with or consulted all relevant specialists or leads?**
- **Is the device a replacement or additional to existing equipment?**
- **Does the device appear on the list of health board's preferred equipment list?**
- **Does the device meet the safety requirements for its type?**
- **Technological advances may mean more recently designed models are software driven. Have the IT department been consulted about compatibility with health board main frame computer?**
- **Have storage facilities been assessed?**
- **Planned preventative maintenance put in place.**
- **Devices, which are complicated or require commissioning, must be installed in collaboration with EBME, the supplier and the staff.**
- **The health board meets current statutory requirements on ionisation and radiation equipment. The Radiation Protection Committee will provide expert advice.**
- **The environmental and sustainability impact of the selection of devices or equipment shall be assessed and recorded. The Environment & Sustainability Manager should be contacted should professional advice be sought.**
- **The social value of any new device, equipment or maintenance option should be considered whenever alternative or new schemes are appraised.**

7. Designated Procurement Roles: Is there a designated individual or team responsible for managing the procurement of medical equipment? If yes, please provide the role(s) and a brief description of responsibilities.

a. Yes – Individual

b. Yes – Team

c. No

The Medical Device and Point of Care Testing Team advise and co-ordinate the procurement of medical equipment in conjunction with NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP). NWSSP Procurement Services have a team of procurement staff who work alongside the Health Board to purchase any medical devices as required.

8. Inventory Review Frequency: How often is your medical equipment inventory reviewed for excess or unused items?

a. Monthly

b. Quarterly

c. Biannually

d. Annually

e. Other (please specify)

There is a rolling programme and robust disposal process in place for excess or unused items.

9. Primary Sources for Procurement:

What are the primary sources for your medical equipment procurement?

Please indicate the proportion sourced from the NHS supply chain versus individual suppliers and provide any additional details as applicable.

PTHB work very closely with NWSSP. It is item dependent as to whether equipment is source via NHS supply chain or directly from suppliers. Where applicable, PTHB link into All Wales contracts as advised by NWSSP.

I can confirm the route to market for each medical device procurement is dependent on each specific device/equipment requirement. NWSSP utilise a variety of existing internal NHS Wales contracts and public sector frameworks, available from providers such as NHS Supply Chain, where they cover the scope of the specific purchase. We may also run open quotation exercises or tenders where required. It is not possible to provide a proportion of NHS Supply Chain versus direct purchases for medical equipment as this request is too vague and the available data would not provide an accurate response.

Section 3: Waste and Disposal

10. Excess/Expired Equipment: What percentage of your medical equipment inventory was classified as excess, unused, or expired in the last 12 months? Please provide a breakdown by equipment type, if available.

I can confirm it is not possible to calculate this percentage due to current processes.

11. Disposal Responsibility: Is there a specific role or department responsible for overseeing the disposal of medical equipment? If yes, please provide the role(s) and responsibilities.

- a. Yes – Individual
- b. Yes – Department

c. No

No, I can confirm the responsibility is split between Support Services, Medical Devices and Estates, each undertaking different elements of waste management but also supporting each other.

12. Formal Disposal Policy: Does your hospital have a formal policy for the disposal of medical equipment?

a. Yes (please provide a copy or summary of any policies)

b. No

Please see FOI.107.24 Attachment 1 for PTHB's disposal policy.

13. Types of Commonly Disposed Equipment: Please specify the types of medical equipment most commonly disposed of due to expiry or non-use. Include examples and approximate percentages for each type, if possible.

- a. Surgical instruments
- b. Diagnostic devices
- c. Monitoring equipment
- d. Imaging equipment
- e. Other (please specify)

I can confirm PTHB rarely dispose of items due to non-use. There is always a variety of equipment being disposed of due to expiry or beyond

economical repair. The equipment types listed above form the main items commonly disposed of.

Section 4: Sustainability and Environmental Impact

14. Sustainability Initiatives: Does your hospital have a sustainability initiative for recycling, reuse, or redistribution of excess or unused medical equipment?

a. Yes (please provide details)

b. No

Yes. The NHS in Wales has a Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan, which covers all trusts in Wales. Within this public document are objectives to recycle and reuse medical equipment. Within Powys we regularly encourage staff to reuse and recycle through organisational wide communications. We have a medical device auctioning contract set up which is well known about throughout the organisation and is frequently used. PTHB have also made efforts to set up internal reuse systems, though this is generally restricted to office equipment.

15. Disposal of Excess or Expired Equipment: How does your hospital manage the disposal of excess, expired, or damaged equipment? Please provide a breakdown by disposal method and indicate the approximate amount (in tonnes) used per year for each method.

a. Recycling

b. Donation

c. General waste

d. Other (please specify)

If possible, medical equipment is auctioned off for continuation of use or as spare parts through our medical devices auctioning contractor. What is sold depends on demand, anything which our contract cannot sell, or deems to be too low a value to be worthwhile selling enters our waste streams. Waste medical equipment mostly enters our Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste stream and is managed by a separate contractor. None of our equipment is donated.

PTHB are not able to provide any weights for the disposal of old or redundant medical devices, as the majority of these items get disposed of at auction via Hilditch, we do not receive any weight data for these items.

If any old or broken medical devices end up in our various skip waste streams, PTHB would not be able to provide accurate weight data purely for the medical devices, as these items would be mixed in with lots of general non-medical device items.

Section 5: Policies and Compliance

16. Compliance with Disposal Guidelines: How does your hospital ensure compliance with national or NHS guidelines on the disposal and management of medical equipment?

a. Internal audits

b. External audits

c. Regular staff training

d. Other (please specify)

PTHB is a member of an All Wales disposal contract. Through routine contract monitoring processes, the health board ensures governance and processes are adhered to.

17. Internal Audits of Equipment Management: Has your hospital conducted internal audits within the last 12 months to assess the management of excess medical equipment?

a. Yes (If yes, please indicate the frequency of audits and any key findings, if available)

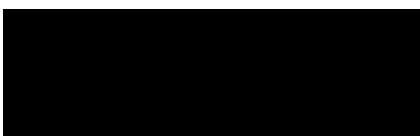
b. No

There are 6 monthly Medical Devices Audits undertaken as self-audits across all services. The audit includes identification of equipment no longer in use. The audits have proved successful in that the medical devices team are often notified of excess/surplus equipment at the time the audits are being undertaken.

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



Jason Crowl
Assistant Director of Support Services

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.