

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.053.24

17 October 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 11 October 2024, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not 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 keen to understand more about the experiences and support offered to primary breast cancer patients when they come to the end of their hospital-based treatment.

At the end of their hospital-based treatment, all primary breast cancer patients used to be offered - in addition to yearly mammograms for suitable patients - an annual clinical appointment for a period of five years, this may have been referred to as routine follow up. In recent years this annual follow up outpatient appointment has for many patients been replaced by Patient Initiated follow-up (PIFU), though some may still be on routine follow up- with both pathways continuing to offer annual mammograms for suitable patients. Note that sometimes other terms are used instead of PIFU, e.g. supported self-management follow up, see on symptoms, stratified follow up or open access follow up.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would appreciate it if you could respond to the below questions. Please use an X in the boxes to indicate your answer when required or provide numerical data where requested. Note that some questions are open questions and some ask for copies of documents. The questions in this request all relate to the pathway for primary breast cancer patients who have completed their hospital-based treatment.

When we refer to 'patient' or 'breast cancer patient' we are referring to primary breast cancer patients.

**Key Relevant Documents**

1. Does your Health Board have a protocol document that sets out what follow up primary breast cancer patients should be offered when they complete their hospital-based treatment and the details of how this process works?

Yes	
No	
Don't Know	

**If yes, please share your current, or most recent, version of this protocol.**

2. Are all hospitals that form part of your Health Board following the processes set out in the protocol document for primary breast cancer?

Yes	
No	
Don't Know	

**If no, please send the primary breast cancer related protocols of each hospital covered by the Health Board?**

**Information provided about breast cancer signs and symptoms**

This section relates to the information given to women about signs and symptoms of primary breast cancer and signs and symptoms of secondary breast cancer.

3. At the end of hospital-based treatment do you provide primary breast cancer patients with information about the signs and symptoms of **primary** breast cancer?

Yes - for all patients	
Yes - but not consistently	
No	

**If yes-** please provide a copy of the information provided or a link to the information if it is available online. If this information is part of a longer document, please provide the full document.

**If yes,** please indicate whether patients are signposted to further services/sources of support for this information and if they are, please provide details for these services/sources of information.

**If no,** please indicate whether patients are signposted to further services/sources of support for this information and if they are, please provide details for these services/sources of information.

4. At the end of hospital-based treatment, do you provide primary breast cancer patients with information about the signs and symptoms of **secondary** breast cancer?

Yes - for all patients	
Yes – but not consistently	
No	

**If yes**, please provide a copy of the information provided or a link to the information if it is available online. If this information is part of a longer document, please provide the full document.

**If yes**, please indicate whether patients are signposted to further services/sources of support to get this information and if they are, please provide details for these services/sources of information.

**If no**, please indicate whether patients are signposted to further services/sources of support for this information and if they are, please provide details for these services/sources of information.

**Number of patients**

5. How many patients did you treat for primary breast cancer that finished their hospital-based treatment in each of the Financial Years 2022 - 2023 and 2023-2024?

Year	Number of Patients
2022-2023	
2023-2024	

6. For the Financial Years 2022-2023 and 2023 - 2024, of the primary breast cancer patients that completed hospital-based treatment, please provide an estimate of what proportion were initially stratified to each follow up pathway?

a. A PIFU pathway

b. A pathway with routine, annual outpatient appointments

If you can provide the figures split between the age under 45 category and age 45 and over category that would be useful but if the information is not readily available by age, please provide for all ages combined.

	% of patients					
	2022-2023			2023-24		
	Under 45	45 and over	All ages	Under 45	45 and over	All ages
PIFU						
Routine follow up						

7. At the end of hospital-based treatment, do all primary breast cancer patients covered by your Health Board receive routine follow up for a set period of time before a decision is made about whether they are placed on PIFU?

Yes- all patients receive routine follow up for a set period of time at the end of hospital- based treatment	
No- patients could immediately be placed on PIFU	

**If yes**, which hospitals offer this and for each hospital how long is the set period of time?

**Description of the PIFU pathway**

We are hoping to understand in more detail how the primary breast cancer PIFU pathway works and how people are able to make contact when they have a concern. If you are providing a protocol document as part of your response, you only need to respond to questions 8, 9, 10 and 11 if the answers to these questions are not fully available in the document.

8. If a patient wants to raise a concern about a breast cancer sign or symptom (either primary breast cancer or secondary breast cancer) while on a PIFU pathway, what are the options for them to do so (please tick all that apply):

A telephone service	
Email contact	
Drop in clinics	
Other- please detail	

**Monitoring of the pathway**

9. Are all breast cancer patients on a PIFU pathway logged and tracked on the organisation's IT system?

All are logged and tracked	
All are logged	
Some are logged and tracked	
Some are logged	
No	

10. Is there a standard time limit on how long PIFU is available to breast cancer patients e.g. 5 years?

Yes	
No	

**If yes**, what is the standard time limit?

**If yes**, how frequently is the standard time limit applied

Always	
Most of the time	
Sometimes	

Rarely	
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If any patients have a difference to the standard time limit, please detail and explain in what circumstances this occurs and the range of time limits?

11. When it is time for a breast cancer patient to be discharged from PIFU, are they notified, e.g. by letter or phone?

Yes	
No	
Don't Know	

If yes, please explain how they receive this notification and provide a copy of the standardised information they would receive at that point, if it is in written form.

We are keen to discuss in more detail the answers to this FOI. If this is something you would consider, please let us know and we will follow up if needed.

- Yes
- No

If yes, the person to contact is:

Powys Response:

Q1 – Q11. Powys Teaching Health Board does not have District General Hospital services or provide breast cancer services. Our residents access their acute and specialist services in DGHs provided by neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England. I therefore recommend you contact them directly for this information, via the following contact details:

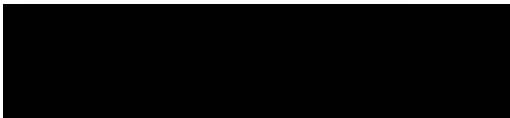
Health Trust/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Gloucester Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	<a href="mailto:ghn-tr.foi@nhs.net">ghn-tr.foi@nhs.net</a>
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust	<a href="mailto:sath.foi@nhs.net">sath.foi@nhs.net</a>
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	<a href="mailto:rwh-tr.foi@nhs.net">rwh-tr.foi@nhs.net</a>
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	<a href="mailto:wah-tr.FOI@nhs.net">wah-tr.FOI@nhs.net</a>
Wye Valley NHS Trust	<a href="mailto:Freedom.Information@wvt.nhs.uk">Freedom.Information@wvt.nhs.uk</a>

Health Board/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	<a href="mailto:FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk">FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk</a>
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	<a href="mailto:bcu.foi@wales.nhs.uk">bcu.foi@wales.nhs.uk</a>
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board	<a href="mailto:FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk">FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk</a>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	<a href="mailto:Freedomofinformation@wales.nhs.uk">Freedomofinformation@wales.nhs.uk</a>
Hywel Dda University Health Board	<a href="mailto:FOI.hyweldda@wales.nhs.uk">FOI.hyweldda@wales.nhs.uk</a>
Swansea Bay University Health Board	<a href="mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk">FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk</a>
Velindre University Health Board	<a href="mailto:Foi.vunhst@wales.nhs.uk">Foi.vunhst@wales.nhs.uk</a>

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



**Richard Stratton**  
**Assistant Medical Director - Primary Care**

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.