

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.075.24

7 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 24 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 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:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Please provide the following information to help us understand the scale of restrictions to the rights of women and birthing people to choose their place of birth across the UK.

1. Does your Trust operate a home birth service for women and birthing people (regardless of whether such services are offered through a dedicated team or integrated into wider maternity services)?
2. If so, are home birth services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week across the whole geographic area overseen by the Trust?
3. Has your Trust been able to provide home birth services to women and birthing people 24 hours a day, seven days a week without any suspensions or restrictions to that ability in the last 12 months? Please note in using the terms suspensions or restrictions we include (but are not limited to) restrictions to the days/times when home births can be attended by midwives or not being able to offer a home birth service at all for a period of time. We do not include unforeseen staff shortages on a particular shift here.
4. Please include the terms and reason(s) for any suspensions or restrictions in the last 12 months.

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



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

5. Has your Trust been unable to send midwives to attend a home birth due to unforeseen circumstances (such as staff shortages or sickness) on a particular shift in the last 12 months? Please include how many times this has occurred in the last 12 months.

6. How many home births have been attended by midwives in your Trust in the last 12 months, including those resulting in intrapartum and/ or postnatal transfer into hospital and those resulting in a baby being born at home with no transfer-in?

Powys Response:

Due to the sparsely populated nature of Powys, we do not provide district general hospital services within the health board area. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) provides a midwife-led maternity service offering home births and births in a midwife-led maternity unit. Consultant-led maternity and neonatal services are provided to Powys families in district general hospitals and specialist hospitals in neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England.

Q1. I can confirm PTHB offers a home birth service.

Q2. I can confirm our home birth service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Q3. PTHB have been able to offer homebirth services to Powys residents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without suspensions or restrictions.

Q4. Not applicable.

Q5. I can confirm this has not occurred over the last 12 months.

Q6. In the last 12 months PTHB have supported 208 births in our county. Of those, 73 were home births. We cannot specify which were transferred as transfers data is collated all together and does not specify home or freestanding midwifery led unit (FMU). Please Note: The figures above may be inaccurate and double counted as the transfers include intrapartum and post birth numbers.

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



Zoe Ashman
Interim Assistant Director, Women & Children

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.