

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.037.24

2 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 23 September 2024, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partly holds 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'm seeking information on the use of non-clinical management consultants hired by your Health Board for advisory or project-based roles, specifically related to workforce management, cost reduction, financial efficiency or operational improvement. Please exclude any data related to Medical Locums, Clinical Consultants (doctors) or agency staff (unless upholding a post aligned with those mentioned above).

Please disclose the following information in accordance with the rules of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. During the period between 1st April 2024 and 31st August 2024, how many external consultants were contracted by the Health Board and what were their job roles (for example Software Developer, Agency Cost Reduction Program Director, Service Efficiency Lead etc.)? (For clarity, I'm referring to individuals, not Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) numbers).

2. Please list the Job Title / Role, pay type (Umbrella / PSC etc.), rate type (day rate, hourly) of any contractors / consultants engaged with the Health Board at any time during April, May, June, July and August 2024. Please use the template below and include a one line description of the core purpose of the role

(responsibilities / objectives), and whether the role pertains to the Health Board only, or to a wider All Wales or NWSSP etc. project.

Job Title/ Role	Pay Type (i.e. Umbrella, PSC etc.)	Rate Type (i.e. Daily or Hourly)	Health Board only or Wider Wales	Core Responsibility / Objective(s)

3. For each job role, what was the average cost invoiced to the Health Board, per day, per contractor, between 1st April 2024 and 31st August 2024.

4. For each of the job roles, what is the average tenure of those who were engaged at any time during 1st April 2024 and 31st August 2024. If they are still in post, please detail their start date and earliest anticipated end date.

Guidance note: for questions 3 and 4, please feel free to create a table that incorporates the answers to both questions, or create additional columns in the template provided to answer all questions in one table. In doing so, please ensure that the answer to each of the separate questions is fully satisfied.

Powys Response:

Q1 – Q4. I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not centrally collect the information on the use of non-clinical management consultants hired by your Health Board for advisory or project-based roles, specifically related to workforce management, cost reduction, financial efficiency or operational improvement. To answer your question this would require a manual trawl of records from each department from 1st April 2024 to 31st August 2024. We estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the fees limit of £450 set by the Freedom of Information Act. We estimate that one person would need to spend 3½ working days to determine whether the Health Board holds the information, and locating, retrieving, and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Health Board is therefore not obliged to comply with this part of your request.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA under the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance we can confirm PTHB has spent £49k on services coded to External Consultancy Fees over this period. This will include costs with companies providing external non-clinical consultancy but may not include all. These service are often procured on the basis of achieving specific outcomes, and often do not specify number of individuals or specific hours rates.

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



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.