

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.039.24

16 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 25 September 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:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information regarding clinical guidelines and the use of birthing pools/ water immersion during labour and/ or birth by women who had previously had a caesarean section:

1. Number of Women Using a Birthing Pool/ Water Immersion Following a Previous Caesarean Section:

Please provide the number of women who had a previous caesarean section and used a birthing pool or water immersion during a subsequent labour and/or birth in your Health Board for each of the following time periods:

- a. 01 January 2013 – 31 December 2013
- b. 01 January 2014 – 31 December 2014
- c. 01 January 2015 – 31 December 2015
- d. 01 January 2016 – 31 December 2016
- e. 01 January 2017 – 31 December 2017
- f. 01 January 2018 - 31 December 2018
- g. 01 January 2019 - 31 December 2019
- h. 01 January 2020 - 31 December 2020
- i. 01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021
- j. 01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022
- k. 01 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

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



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

Clinical Guidelines:

2. Please provide copies of any current maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols specifically relating to:

a. The use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

b. Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC).

c. Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about water immersion/birthing pools during labour and/or birth.

d. Please provide copies of any other maternity/midwifery/obstetric clinical guidelines, policies or protocols which contain information about vaginal birth after caesarean section.

Powys Response:

Q1a – Q1k. Please see the table below for the number of women Using a Birthing Pool/ Water Immersion Following a Previous Caesarean Section Powys Teaching Health Boards (PTHB) for the years requested.

Please Note: Data is for September 2013 onwards, as the system used prior did not record water births.

100% Data Completeness for Obstetric History of Caesarean Section. 100% Data Completeness for Use of Birthing Pool.

Number of births	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1

Q2a. Please see FOI.039.24 Attachment 1 for the use of water immersion or birthing pools during labour and/ or birth.

Q2b. Please see FOI.039.24 Attachment 2 for Informed choice, personalised care and the care of women making choice outside of recommended guidelines.

Q2c. Please see FOI.039.24 Attachment 3 for All Wales Midwifery Led Care Guidelines.

Q2d. Please see FOI.039.24 Attachment 4 for Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC) proforma for information sharing.

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.