

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.297.25

24 April 2025

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 17 April 2025, 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 an information request relating to NHS Trusts buying and supplying paracetamol and ibuprofen. Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

Q1. The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.

Q2. The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen in each of those financial years.

Q3. If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.

Q4. What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

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



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

Powys Response:

Please Note: Following responses are relating to Powys Teaching Health Boards (PTHB) community hospitals only. Primary care prescribing data is available publicly and can be accessed on this link: [Pharmacy / Practice Dispensing Data - NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership](#)

Individual primary care contractors (GP practices / community pharmacies) will have the data at patient-level and although prescribers should be following national/ local guidance, the decision to prescribe is down to individual prescriber discretion.

Q1. We do not keep data on the number of individual patients prescribed paracetamol and ibuprofen from our hospital sites on a hospital prescription (WP10HP) in Powys. We are able to provide data for total cost and prescription items rather than number of patients. Please Note: a patient may have had both paracetamol and ibuprofen on the same prescription.

We hold cost and items data on the number of stock packs that are supplied to a ward or department, but we don't hold data on how they are used, so if they are prescribed, administered under our homely/ discretionary meds policy/ Minor Injury Units (MIU) protocol or discarded. Our hospital discharge prescriptions are mainly outsourced, and this data is held by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and Hywel Dda University Health Board (H DUHB) and therefore are not reported. For any in house dispensing for discharge, due to the way we print labels, we do not record or hold data on issues and therefore cannot provide this information.

Q2 & Q3. Please see the table below for the total amount spent by PTHB on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen broken down by the form in which it was prescribed. Please Note: Where an * is shown, data is available up to January 2025.

Financial Year	Description	Basic Price	Number of Items
2024/25 *	Paracetamol 500mg Tablets	£33.68	16
2024/25 *	Paracetamol 500mg Soluble Tablets	£19.53	1
2024/25 *	Paracetamol Tablet 1g	£7.73	1
2024/25 *	Ibuprofen 200mg Tablets	£2.59	1
2024/25 *	Ibuprofen 400mg Tablets	£0.88	1
2023/24	Paracetamol 500mg Tablets	£95.09	30
2023/24	Paracetamol Suppositories 500mg	£82.54	1
2023/24	Paracetamol 500mg Soluble Tablets	£15.31	1
2023/24	Paracetamol Tablet 1g	£12.88	2
2023/24	Ibuprofen 200mg/5ml Oral Suspension Sugar Free	£17.45	1
2023/24	Ibuprofen 200mg Tablets	£5.14	3
2023/24	Ibuprofen 400mg Tablets	£0.96	1
2022/23	Paracetamol 500mg Tablets	£147.50	46
2022/23	Paracetamol Tablet 1g	£29.80	3
2022/23	Calpol Six Plus Susp 250mg/5ml C/f S/f	£4.77	1

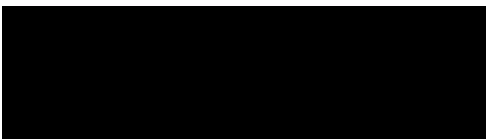
2022/23	Ibuprofen 400mg Tablets	£10.43	5
2022/23	Ibuprofen 200mg Tablets	£3.86	3
2022/23	Ibuprofen Capsules 200mg	£2.26	1

Q4. I can confirm PTHB does not have a prescribing policy for paracetamol or ibuprofen. Patients are assessed by prescribers and the decision to prescribe comes down to prescriber discretion. We have protocols published on the PTHB internet for the administration of ibuprofen and paracetamol without a prescription in MIU settings [Policies, Procedures, Protocols, SOPs and Guidelines - Powys Teaching Health Board](#).

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 Powys.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.