

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.444.25

26 August 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 01 August 2025, 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 each question individually.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting aggregate information regarding services provided or commissioned by your Trust in relation to peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP), with a specific focus on:

- Post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP)
- Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP)
- Painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN).

Please break down the information by individual service, clinic, and by hospital site.

Q1. Patient Numbers & Treatment Modalities (Last 12 Months)

a. For each hospital site or service, please provide:

NOTE: Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is a non-acute care provider; we do not have District General Hospitals (DGH). PTHB commissions services from several Welsh health boards and English provider organisations. Whilst there is an element of treatment offered within PTHB through the use of neuropathic analgesia, the more complex interventional elements would be via commissioned services.

The number of patients seen for each of the following conditions:
PSNP - **I can confirm that post-surgical neuropathic pain (PSNP) is not offered at PTHB.**

CRNP (please split into surgically induced and chemotherapy-induced) - **I can confirm that Cancer-related neuropathic pain (CRNP) is not offered at PTHB.**

PDPN - **I can confirm that PTHB does not offer a service for painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy (PDPN). Individuals may see their GP or Podiatrist; some people may be referred to secondary care.**

Please also break this down by hospital department. – **Not applicable.**

Treatment Modalities

b. For each hospital site or service, please indicate Yes or No as to whether the following treatment modalities are available for PNP. Where stated yes please provide patient numbers for the latest 12-month period.

- Gabapentin prescriptions – **Yes.**
- Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections – **No.**
- TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) – **No.**
- Acupuncture (including PENS – Percutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) – **No.**
- Theatre-based nerve stimulation procedures (e.g., spinal cord stimulators or other implanted/surgical neuromodulation devices) – **No.**

If exact numbers are unavailable, proxy data is acceptable (e.g., the percentage of neuropathic pain patients receiving each treatment modality). - **I can confirm PTHB are not able to detail the number of unique patients being treated for PNP as we do not have access to this level of data (unique points & indication). Prescribing data at a GP practice level is publicly available on the NWSSP website: [General Practice Prescribing Data Extract - NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership](#)**

Q2. Service Provision

Does your Trust or provider offer specific or dedicated services for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN? - **Not applicable based on Q1.**

- If yes, please list each relevant service or site (e.g., pain clinic, neurology clinic, diabetic foot clinic, community pain service) along with their addresses.

For each listed site or service, please indicate:

- The types of healthcare professionals routinely involved (e.g., pain specialists, neurologists, specialist nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists)
- The number of staff per role (headcount or FTE if available)

Q3. Referral Pathways & Service Specifications

Are there established care pathways, referral criteria, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, and/or PDPN? - **Not applicable based on Q1.**

- If yes, please supply relevant documents or summaries.
- If not, please clarify whether these conditions fall under broader chronic pain, MSK, diabetes, or oncology pathways.

Q4. Clinical Guidelines, Protocols, Strategic Plans

Has the Trust developed or contributed to any strategic plans, business cases, or service specifications for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN?

- If so, please provide relevant documents, including any timelines and associated funding information. - **No.**

Are there any specific clinical guidelines, care pathways, or treatment protocols in use? **No.**

For example:

- NICE CG173

- NEUPSIG

- Local pathways for diabetes- or oncology-related neuropathy.

- If yes, please provide copies or summaries of key components.

Q5. Funding & Budgets

What was the total expenditure on neuropathic pain services in the most recent full financial year?

If no specific figure is available, please provide overall pain management funding and any known distribution (e.g. primary/community vs secondary care).

Please indicate the type of funding, e.g. tariff or block contract - **PTHB does not have a service specifically for neuropathic pain, however individuals are treated by PTHB's Powys Living Well Service. Powys Living Well Service also treats individuals with other conditions; it is not possible to identify the service breakdown within the budget. The total budget for Powys Living Well Service is £1153k**

Q6. Planned or Recent Service Changes

Are there any recent, ongoing, or planned changes to:

- Commissioning arrangements – **No.**

- Referral pathways- **Not applicable.**

- Service structure- **Not applicable.**

- Clinical treatment options for PSNP, CRNP, or PDPN? **Not applicable.**

If yes, please provide details, including the relevant sites, timelines, and the rationale for these changes.

Q7. Data Format and Guidance

Please provide all data in a machine-readable format (e.g., Excel or CSV). If any part of the request is unclear or may exceed appropriate cost/time limits, please contact me to discuss refinement, in accordance with Section 16 of the FOI Act.

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



David Farnsworth
Assistant Director, Community Services Group

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.