

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.462.25

11 September 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 11 August 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, but have applied an exemption to elements of this request. 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):

I am submitting this Freedom of Information request to obtain details regarding the NHS Organisation's Radiology Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS), associated diagnostic reporting processes, and departmental statistics. Please Note: Definitions of each solution type are provided at the bottom of this request.

PACS – Information Request

Q1. Who is the current supplier of the NHS Organisation's PACS solution - **Philips.**

Q2. What is the name of the current PACS system in use - **VuePACS.**

Q3. When did the current PACS contract commence - **This contract went live in July 2025.**

Q4. When is the current PACS contract due to expire – **5 Years.**

Q5. Are there any contract extensions available under the current agreement – **Yes, 2 years.**

Q6. What is the total value of the current PACS contract - **I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is withholding the contract value as it is considered exempt under Section 43 Commercial Interests of the**

Freedom of Information Act. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if releasing the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (a person maybe an individual, company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). This exemption was considered by the Health Board when deciding whether to release this information because it was felt that, in doing so, it could create a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the Health Board and third parties we work with.

As this is a qualified exemption the Health Board must consider the public interest in deciding whether to withhold or disclose the information. The Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency. However, the Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could discourage third parties from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn, this could jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. As a result, exemption Section 43 is engaged as it is not considered in the public interest to disclose this.

Q7. When is the next anticipated year of public procurement? - **I can confirm that this is unknown at present.**

Q8. Is the NHS Organisation's PACS part of a wider centralised radiology network (e.g. national solution or multi-NHS Organisation collaborative)? If so, can you please provide the name/identity of the collaborative solution? - **I can confirm that this is an All-Wales Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS)/ Radiology Information System (RIS) Solution.**

***** Diagnostic Reporting *****

Q9. Is Radiology Diagnostic Reporting performed within the Radiology Information System (RIS), the NHS Organisation's Electronic Patient Record (EPR), or the PACS solution? - **I can confirm that reporting is via the PACS lead reporting workflow.**

***** PACS – Archive Stats *****

Q10. What is the total number of radiology studies currently stored in the PACS archive? - **Approximately 90,000 studies are undertaken on the local gateway.**

***** NHS Organisations Departmental Statistics*****

Q11. How many radiology studies are undertaken by the NHS Organisation per annum? - **Approximately 40,000.**

Q12. How many radiology studies are distributed via the Sectra Image Exchange Portal (IEP) annually? - **I can confirm that PTHB have only just connected to the Image Exchange Portal (IEP). Therefore, we are unable to quantify what PTHB will send over IEP in a year.**

***** Definitions *****

Electronic Patient Record (EPR)

An Electronic Patient Record (EPR) is a digital version of a patient's medical history maintained by a healthcare provider. It includes clinical data such as diagnoses, medications, treatment plans, immunisation dates, allergies, radiology images, and laboratory test results. EPR systems are designed to streamline clinical workflows, improve patient safety, and enable secure sharing of information across departments and care settings.

Radiology Information System (RIS)

A RIS is a specialised software system designed to manage the workflow and operations of a radiology department. It supports scheduling of imaging appointments, tracking of radiology imaging orders, storing and distributing reports, and managing patient data. RIS is often integrated with PACS and Electronic Patient Records (EPR) to ensure efficient and accurate diagnostic imaging services.

Picture Archive Communications System (PACS) A PACS is a medical imaging technology used for storing, retrieving, presenting, and sharing images produced by various radiology modalities such as X-ray, CT, MRI, and ultrasound. It eliminates the need for physical film and enables secure, digital access to images and reports across departments and locations. PACS is typically integrated with RIS and Electronic Patient Records (EPR), supporting efficient diagnostic workflows and timely clinical decision-making.

Image Exchange Portal (IEP)

The Image Exchange Portal (IEP) is a secure platform used by NHS Organisations to share radiology images and reports electronically between NHS Organisations and other healthcare providers. It facilitates timely access to imaging data for clinical consultations, second opinions, and patient transfers, reducing the need for repeat scans and improving continuity of care.

Diagnostic Reporting in Radiology

Diagnostic reporting in radiology refers to the process by which radiologists interpret medical images, such as X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, and ultrasounds, and generate structured clinical reports detailing their findings. These reports provide essential information for diagnosing conditions, guiding treatment decisions, and monitoring patient progress. Diagnostic reporting is typically supported by RIS and PACS systems, ensuring timely access, secure storage, and efficient communication of imaging results across clinical teams.

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.