

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.194.25

17 February 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 4 February 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:

I am submitting a Freedom of Information request regarding the disposal, decontamination, and sustainability practices of foam cushions and mattresses within Community Equipment Services. Please would you be so kind to help us to gather the following information:

1. How do your Community Equipment Services (CES) dispose of foam cushions and mattresses? Landfill, incineration, or other method – please be specific. (If a third party takes care of this for you, please name them and explain the process of disposal.)
2. How do they decontaminate condemned cushions/mattresses before disposal?
3. How do they decontaminate cushions/mattresses between patient use?
4. Who is responsible for Infection Prevention at your Community Equipment Service?
5. Who is the Carbon Reduction & Sustainability Lead at your Community Equipment Service?

### Powys Response:

Please Note: Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not have a Community Equipment Service (CES). Individual Clinical Teams are responsible for provision

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of appropriate equipment; the Infection Prevention and Control team and Facilities team are responsible for decontamination and disposal respectively and thus our response below is based on this:

Q1. I can confirm if a foam cushion or mattress has been deemed as infectious waste then it will be collected by our Clinical waste contractor Stericycle and disposed of via incineration. However, if a foam cushion or mattress has been deemed as non-infectious waste, then it will be disposed of in a general waste skip and collected by our skip contractor Biffa and then disposed of via incineration (energy from waste plant).

Q2. PTHB has a 'mattress cleaning standard operating procedure' for decontamination of condemned mattresses which covers cleaning after use and before disposal.


Q3. PTHB has a 'mattress cleaning standard operating procedure' for decontamination of mattresses which covers cleaning after use and before disposal.

Q4 & Q5. I can confirm PTHB does not have Community Equipment Services (CES). The CES is an integrated service between Powys County Council and PTHB. Therefore, I recommend you contact them for further information via the following link: [Make a Freedom of Information request \(or EIR\) - Powys County Council](#)

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](mailto: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



**Wayne Tannahill**  
**Associate Director of Capital, Estates and Property**

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.