

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.201.25

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 12 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 wish to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding mortuaries at all hospitals within the Health Board. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible. Please could you supply me with the following information which could exist in either paper or electronic form :

Q1. How many mortuaries are there altogether within the Health Board and where are they?

Q2. What is the maximum body storage capacity at each hospital mortuary within the Health Board?

Q3. Under the new system, introduced on 9 September 2024, all deaths not investigated by a coroner are now reviewed independently by a medical examiner before a death certificate is issued.

Since September 2024, have any of the hospital mortuaries within the Health Board been at maximum capacity?

Q3a. If yes to 3, for how long were the hospital mortuaries within the Health Board at maximum capacity?

Q3b. Since September 2024, how many bodies have been moved to other hospital mortuaries within the Health Board, due to shortage of body storage at the hospital where the death took place.

Q3c. Since September 2024, how many bodies have been moved to other hospital mortuaries within a different Health Board, due to shortage of body storage at the hospital where the death took place.

Q4. Have the Health Board invested in any form of additional body storage for the mortuaries within the hospitals since September 2024? If so, what kind.

Q5. On average, since September 2024, what is the longest period a body has been stored at a hospital morgue within the Health Board due to delays with issuing a death certificate.

5a. How does this compare with the same period in 2023?

Powys Response:

Q1. I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not operate body store or mortuary facilities.

Q2 – Q5. Not applicable.

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



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.