

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.204.25

19 March 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 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 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 (if combined response).

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

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information. If all questions cannot be answered in the appropriate time limit, please answer the questions in order until the time limit is reached.

Please note Q1, Q2 & Q5 Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is unable to provide these exact numbers due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less). PTHB believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified, when considered with other information already available within the public domain, if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of UK GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

Q1. In the following calendar years, how many referrals of any form were made to the Health Board for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?

Year	Adult	Children
2022	195	0
2023	256	0
2024	255	<5

Q2. How many of the referrals in question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the Health Board? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

Year	Adult	Children
2022	<5	0
2023	<5	0
2024	5	0

Q3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate

Adult:

Referrals were deemed inappropriate due to lack of information and documentation not provided as well as no evidence of a Fast-track referral submitted.

Children:

Not applicable.

Q4. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed by a) The referrer, or b) The patient/their family. Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

Year	Adult	Children
2022	No data available	0
2023	No data available	0
2024	7 approvals withdrawn by the referrer	0

Q5. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

Year	Adult	Children
2022	<5	0
2023	76	0
2024	<5	0

Q6. In the following calendar years, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?

Year	Adult	Children
2022	No data recorded	0

2023	54	0
2024	195	0

Q7. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned. Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days.

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

Year	Adult	Children
2022	No data available. Each application varies depending on availability in area and care required	0
2023		0
2024		10 days

Q8. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place. Please provide the answer days.

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

Year	Adult	Children
2022	No data available. Each application varies depending on availability in area and care required	0
2023		0
2024		10 days

Q9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support?

Adult:

Criteria considered would be whether there was evidence of a primary health need, whether there had been a catastrophic event, whether the patient had been rapidly deteriorating or was near end of life which would require supporting end of life care pathway and advanced care planning.

Children:

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) discussion held in conjunction with carers and parents. Children's Nursing Assessment completed with 24-hour plan.

As part of this, please could you explain:

Q10. The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?)

Adult:

The care coordinator, the named responsible person, usually a health board representative.

Children:

Nurse Assessor in conjunction with Team Lead following discussions with MDT especially health professionals in District General Hospital.

Q11. Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the Health Board before being granted? Please explain this process if so.

Adult:

All Fast-track referrals are quality assured, by the complex care team on the day of submission to the team, the process does not delay in a decision of the quality assurance.

Children:

All referrals for Fast-track Children's Continuing Care (CCC) from outside the Children's Nursing Services are subject to discussions within the CCC team and healthcare managers in the form of ad hoc meetings as and when required.

Q12. Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support?

Adult:

Criteria considered would be whether there was evidence of a primary health need, whether there had been a catastrophic event, whether the patient had been rapidly deteriorating or was near end of life which would require supporting end of life care pathway and advanced care planning.

Children:

All children requiring Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare would have a rapidly deteriorating condition, with nursing needs that cannot be met fully by universal and referred/specialist services and are over and above the care a parent can be expected to provide.

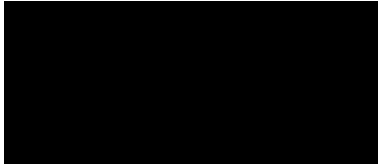
Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request, 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



Zoe Ashman
Interim Assistant Director, Women & Children

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.