

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.221.25

7 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 26 February 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.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am writing to you to request the following information regarding metastatic breast cancer services in Wales under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If certain answers cannot be provided, please still provide the information which can be shared. By a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer, I mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body, such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Metastatic breast cancer is also referred to as 'secondary' or 'advanced' or 'stage 4' breast cancer.

Patients

1. How many patients in your Health Board with a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer are currently being treated?
2. Are Metastatic breast patients discussed at MDT?
3. How does Powys Teaching Health Board breast cancer MDT record and track metastatic breast cancer on the Welsh Clinical Portal and the Welsh Patient Administration System? If precise numbers are unavailable, what steps have been taken to improve data collection on metastatic breast cancer patients?

Nurses

4. How many dedicated metastatic breast cancer nurses are currently in post at Powys Teaching Health Board?

5. Do all patients at Powys Teaching Health Board with metastatic breast cancer have access to a dedicated Metastatic CNS with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of metastatic breast cancer?

6. Do all Metastatic patients receive a Holistic Needs assessment?

7. How are Metastatic patients supported in the HB?

Treatment Summaries and Red Flags

8. Does Powys Teaching Health Board inform all primary breast cancer patients at end of treatment of the red flag symptoms to be aware of?

9. What red flag infographic do you use?

10. How many patients with primary breast cancer in the past year received treatment summaries?

11. Does Powys Teaching Health Board have a formal policy in place to ensure all metastatic breast cancer patients receive treatment summaries?

12. What is the formal system to ensure GPs are aware of the red flags for their patients who have had breast cancer?

Powys Response:

Q1. Powys does not have district general hospital services within the county. Our residents access their acute and specialist services including metastatic breast cancer services in District General Hospitals (DGH) provided by neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England. Therefore, holds no information to be able to respond to your request. The table below provides the contact details of neighbouring Health Boards and English providers we commission services from, which you may wish to approach for information to support your request:

| Health Board/Organisation | FOI Contact Details |
|---|--|
| Aneurin Bevan University Health Board | FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk |
| Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board | bcu.foi@wales.nhs.uk |
| Cardiff & Vale University Health Board | FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk |
| Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board | Freedomofinformation@wales.nhs.uk |
| Hywel Dda University Health Board | FOI.hyweldda@wales.nhs.uk |
| Swansea Bay University Health Board | FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk |
| NHS Provider (England) | Contact Details |
| Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust | sath.foi@nhs.net |
| Wye Valley NHS Trust | freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk |

Q2. Please see our response to Q1 above. However metastatic breast cancer patients would be discussed as clinically needed at Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) within commissioned services. The services we commission work closely with regional cancer networks.

Q3. Please see our response to Q1 above.

Q4. As per Q1, PTHB does not directly provide a metastatic breast cancer service therefore the nurses/ breast cancer nurses would be provided via commissioned services. Our commissioned providers deliver the breast cancer services to other Health Boards /English Trusts and not just specifically for Powys residents.

Q5. As per Q1, access to a dedicated metastatic CNS would depend on the provision within the commissioned service however they all work with their regional network and to national cancer standards/pathways including competency based specific specialist skills.

Q6. As per Q1, a holistic needs assessment if undertaken by the breast cancer team would take place within commissioned services. There is also the opportunity for Powys residents to access a holistic needs assessment through the Improving the Cancer Journey in Powys programme, where a holistic needs assessment can be undertaken locally, and needs identified addressed.

Q7. As per Q1, the breast cancer teams in commissioned services support metastatic patients. Support locally within Powys, includes the Improving the Cancer Journey in Powys programme, as well as community services e.g. GPs, District Nurses, Community Hospitals, Specialist Palliative Care Team, Third Sector as needed.

Q8. As per question 1, the end of treatment for primary breast cancer treatments would be provided by commissioned services.

Q9. As above, the infographic would depend on the commissioned service provider.

Q10. Due to the nature of the commissioned services, this data is not available at a Health Board level.

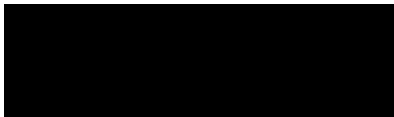
Q11. Due to the nature of breast services being commissioned, there is not a formal policy within PTHB for the provision of treatment summaries

Q12. All GPs engage with continued professional development as part of the Appraisal and Revalidation process. There is no formal system to ensure that GPs are aware specifically of the red flags for their patients who have had breast cancer. Whether this information is included in correspondence from the specialist teams to the GPs would be dependent on the teams across the commissioned services.

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.