

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.150.25

31 January 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 3 January 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.

### Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I'm aware the health board has various contracts in place for Web Filtering and Security Awareness Training. Can you please confirm the following.

1. What current web filter is in place and when this contract is due to expire?
2. What current security awareness training is in place and when this contract is due to expire?
3. Lastly, can you please confirm what reseller the trust used to purchase their web filter and security awareness training technologies?

### Powys Response:

Q1. This question has been exempted under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, which relates to information whose disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. This reflects the fact that release of information under the Freedom of Information Act is considered to be to the public at large, rather than the individual applicant. Therefore, Powys Teaching Health Board must consider how any potential recipient of the information might use it, rather than the person directly asking for it. In this instance the exemption has been applied as disclosure of the information you have requested would pose a threat to our cyber security and, consequently, to

the prevention or detection of crime as it would assist a third party to mount an attack on our IT systems by using the data provided to infer potential vulnerability.

The NHS Wales network is a highly sensitive infrastructure, and we employ rigorous safeguards to protect it from cyber-attacks. Like other organisations we are subject to these regularly. These attacks are unlawful under the Computer Misuse Act, and whilst the motive is not always apparent, we are aware of the risk to critical national infrastructure that may result from a successful attack. We consider that releasing the information you have asked for would be likely to prejudice our efforts to prevent and detect future attacks and undermine our ability to safeguard our information systems.

The use of this exemption is subject to an assessment of the Public Interest Test, to determine whether the overall balance of public interest rests in the exemption applying and the information being withheld, or in releasing it in any event.

Powys Teaching Health Board recognises the need for openness and transparency by public authorities, and the fact you have requested the information is in itself an argument in favour of release.

However, in this instance we consider that there is greater public interest in safeguarding our information systems and to ensure that cyber-attacks, or any other criminal activity, is prevented wherever possible.

More information referencing section 31 can be found here:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/section-31-law-enforcement/>

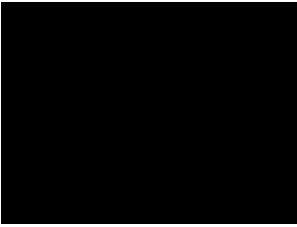
Q2. I can advise that NHS Wales uses an internal eLearning platform that provides staff with opportunities to receive regular security awareness training as part of mandatory core skills and therefore, there is no contract in place.

Q3. Please see our response to Q1 above.

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



**Vicki Cooper**  
**Chief Digital Data Officer**

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.