

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.399.25

28 July 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 10 July 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 each question individually.

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

Extended Reality (XR) is a broad term encompassing various technologies that blend virtual and real environments. It includes Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Mixed Reality (MR) which can be used for many purposes and conditions related to physical and mental health within healthcare. We recognise that increasingly the definition of XR is becoming more fluid - if you are utilising other interactive media within a therapeutic context that you believe sits on the edges of this definition, we invite you to also share those details.

We are aiming to collect information on your organisation's involvement with this technology for healthcare purposes only (physical or mental health uses or conditions) and collect information on specific products being used, researched, made or purchased by your organisation for healthcare purposes. See question 9 for a list of categories of use in this area.

1. Organisation's name

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB).

2. Under the Freedom of Information Act, will you be reporting the use, research, purchase, development, or otherwise of an XR technology within your organisation?

- **Yes**
- No, there are no XR products to report in my organisation

3. Does your organisation have an established XR Technology Lab or Centre of Excellence for XR Technology?

- Yes
- **No**
- Other

4. Please select the type of organisation that you represent:

- Academic Institution/ University
- NHS Acute Trust (Hospital Trust)
- NHS Mental Health Trust
- NHS Ambulance Services Trust
- NHS Community Health Trust
- NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS Specialist/Integrated Trust
- **Health Board (Scotland/Wales)**
- Health and Social Care Trust (NI)
- Other

5. Please select the nature of your organisation's involvement with XR health products (please select all that are applicable)

- We are using free XR products
- **We are using XR products that we have purchased**
- We are researching XR products
- We are developing XR products
- Other

6. Please state the name of the product(s)

Microsoft HoloLens.

7. Please provide a brief description of the product(s)

8. Please highlight any unique features of the product(s)

9. Please provide a link to the product website(s) if available

Please find enclosed link to Microsoft HoloLens which provides the above information. [HoloLens 2 hardware | Microsoft Learn](#)

10. Please select the most relevant categories for the product(s) being developed or deployed:

- Mental Wellbeing and Therapy
- Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation
- Pain Management
- **Clinical & Surgical**
- Patient Education and Training
- Workforce Education and Training
- Healthy Lifestyle and Fitness
- Other

11. Please select how these product(s) are being or will be adopted:

- Free to patients/staff
- Paid for by patients/staff

- Free to NHS
- **Paid for by NHS**
- Unknown
- Other

12. Please select the level of maturity of the product(s)

- Proof of concept
- Minimum Viable Product
- Early Adoption
- Growing Integration
- Established Practice
- Unknown
- **Other. Devices are being used in a Masters research project as a proof of concept. Other devices were purchased prior to this but are no longer in active use.**

13. Approximately what date/year was the XR product(s) first deployed within your organisation? **2022.**

14. Where and/or in how many locations is the product(s) currently offered?
I can confirm that they are currently in testing with the PTHB Dental teams at several locations across Powys.

15. How is the product(s) currently distributed?

- Home use by patients
- Home use by staff
- **NHS site by patients**
- NHS site by staff
- Unknown
- Other.

16. Please select the hardware that is used in your organisation (select all that apply):

- Meta Quest 2
- Meta Quest 3
- Meta Quest Pro
- Pico 4
- Pico Neo 3 Pro / Eye
- HTC Vive XR Elite
- Lenovo ThinkReality XVR
- Valve Index
- Apple Vision Pro
- HTC VivePro 2
- Pimax Crystal
- Sony Playstation VR2
- Vive Focus 3
- Unknown
- **Other. HoloLens**

17. If your organisation is involved in the development of XR products, please select the development software that is used (please select all that apply):

- Unity
- Unreal Engine
- Godot
- Open XR
- XR Interaction Toolkit
- SteamVR Plugin
- Meta XR SDK
- Vive Wave SDK
- Varjo SDK
- WebXR
- Mixed Reality Toolkit
- Ultraleap Hand Tracking
- Unknown
- **Other. No development software in use.**

18. Please provide details of external organisations such as development partners that are involved

I can confirm that there are no external organisations involved.

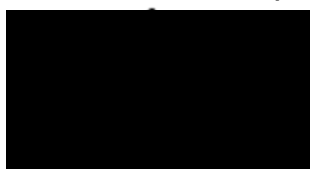
19. Please provide any further details

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



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.