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Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.431.25 4 August 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 29 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 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.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):
I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Powys Teaching Health Board relating to Continence and Stoma Care Formularies. Please be as specific as possible in your response to all questions.

Q1. Does your organisation have an active Ostomy (stoma) or Continence Care Formulary? If so, please share copies of both formularies, including the full list of products? - **Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) has a Continence Product / Appliance Formulary. PTHB does not have a stoma formulary.**

**Please see FOI.431.25 Attachment 1 – Continence Product Appliance Formulary.**

I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) are withholding the costs of the products as this information is considered exempt under Section 43 Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if releasing the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (a person maybe an individual, company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the Health Board when deciding whether to release this information because it was felt that, in doing so, it could create a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the Health Board and third parties we work with.

As this is a qualified exemption the Health Board must consider the public interest in deciding whether to withhold or disclose the information. The Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency. However, the Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could discourage third parties from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn, this could jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. As a result, exemption Section 43 is engaged as it is not considered in the public interest to disclose this.

Q2. What NHS organisations are they applicable to? **The formulary is applicable to PTHB patients, registered with a Powys GP Practice, requiring continence appliances/ products to meet their health and wellbeing needs.**

Q3. When was the formulary start date, and when will it end or is expected to be renewed? **The Current Formulary was approved January 2025. A review will be commenced June/July 2027 with completion/approval January 2028.**

Q4. What is the primary objective of the formulary? If this is to deliver cost improvement/savings, please quantify what savings the formulary has delivered to your organisation each year since it was active? **The objective is cost effective product management, prevention of stockpiling by patients and appropriate clinical prescribing, getting the right product to the right patient.**

Q5. Which part of your organisation benefits from any Formulary savings? **Primary Care GP practices benefit from the use of the formulary.**

Q6. What is the process for renewal? **Emails are sent to company representatives for expressions of interest to demonstrate products for consideration (April/May 2027). Those companies that respond receive a confirmation email with date and time of their presentation slot (June/July 2027). Companies have 15 minutes to present, followed by Question-and-Answer session. PTHB Staff include Clinicians from Powys Continence Service and a representative from Medicines Management. Any product samples/ literature is retained by the clinical team for further checks and discussion. After the presentation day, no further engagement takes place with the companies with respect to the formulary until final approval. The Continence Service Manager produces data sheet with products demonstrated and cross references with costs on drug tariff. Discussion within clinical team and products**

**narrowed. Discussion with service manager and medicines management with narrative from service manager with respect to products chosen. Medicines management representative then takes forward to their groups with final approval at Area Prescribing Group (APG) by January 2028.**

Q7. Where new, innovative products are launched while the formulary is live, what is the process for reviewing these and adding to the formulary? **The formulary is reviewed on 3 yearly cycles.**

Q8. Other than cost, how are outcomes measured and which outcomes are measured when assessing the effectiveness of the formulary? **Quarterly Business Reviews of product use and formulary compliance.**

Q9. Are stoma bags included within your formularies? **No.**

Q10. Who are the lead clinical stakeholder(s) responsible for the formularies – name and job role please? **Powys Continence Service Manager.**

**The Health Board is withholding the name of the member of staff whose job may fit the title. This decision has been made as it is not within the expectations of the individual that their personal data would be put into the public domain. This information is classed as personal data of third parties and is therefore being withheld in accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) by virtue of section 40 (3) (a) (i) of the Act which permits a public authority to withhold personal data other than the requester's where the disclosure would breach a Data Protection Principle.**

**The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) / General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.**

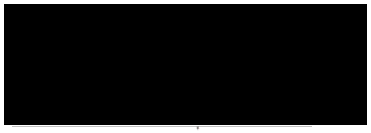
Q11. Who are the lead nonclinical stakeholder(s) responsible for the formularies – name and job role please? **Medicines Management representative provides oversight and scrutiny of the process. However, the final decision remains with the Continence Service clinicians and service manager.**

Q12. How is formulary compliance measured by healthcare professionals in your organisation? **Quarterly Business Reviews of product use and formulary compliance using spreadsheet, graphs/charts**

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.