

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.225.25

11 April 2025

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Please accept our sincere apology for the delay in responding to your request. I write further to your request for information, which was received on 4 March 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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following details regarding the ambulatory ECG monitoring service across the hospitals within your Health Board:

Q1. The number of ambulatory ECG monitors fitted at each hospital within the Health Board in 2024.

Q2. The manufacturer(s) of ambulatory ECG monitors used at each hospital.

Q3. The current waiting times for patients to have an ambulatory ECG monitor fitted at each hospital.

Q4. The number of patients currently on the waiting list for ambulatory ECG monitoring at each hospital.

Q5. The number of ambulatory ECG recordings awaiting analysis at each hospital.

Q6. The current wait time for an ECG recording to be analysed once the patient has returned the monitor at each hospital.

Q7. The target timeframe within which each hospital aims to analyse routine ECG recordings after the monitor is returned.

I would appreciate it if this information could be provided in electronic format. If any of the requested details are unavailable, I would be grateful for any advice or guidance on how to obtain them.

Powys Response:

Q1. I can confirm there are 68 electrocardiogram (ECG) monitors fitted at Brecon Hospital and 17 ECG monitors fitted at Newtown hospital. I can confirm no other Powys site has event monitors. However, these devices are mobile devices, therefore we can set them up for patients in the community. For example if a patient was living in Llandrindod, there is an option to set up a R-Test 4 device in the comfort of their own home.

Q2. I can confirm Newtown and Brecon Hospitals both use Novacor R-Test 4. The 68 devices are Kardia monitors and are located in Newtown Hospital.

I can confirm Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) provide monitors for South Powys as they provide in-reach clinics for diagnostics. I therefore recommend you contact them directly for this information, via: FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk

Q3. I can confirm the current wait time for patients to have an ambulatory ECG monitor fitted at each site is listed below:

- Brecon Hospital – Average 28 weeks.
- Newtown Hospital – 2-4 weeks.

Q4. Please see the number of patients currently on the waiting list for ambulatory ECG monitoring.

Location	Number of patients on the waiting list
Brecon Hospital	61
Newton Hospital	*
Builth Wells	*

* 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.

Q5. For North Powys, there are currently no ambulatory ECG recordings awaiting analysis at each hospital. Please see Q2 above for South Powys information.

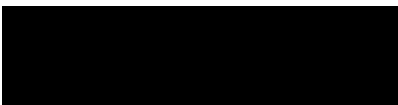
Q6. For North Powys, the current wait time for an ECG recording to be analysed once the patient has returned the monitor at each hospital is 2 weeks. Please see Q2 above for South Powys information.

Q7. For North Powys, the target time frame within which each hospital aims to analyse routine ECG recordings after the monitor is returned is 4 weeks. Please see Q2 above for South Powys information.

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.