

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.243.25

4 April 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 19 March 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.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I would like to request funding data for the last three years involving yourselves and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen. I don't know the precise manner the data is held in, so as a worked example;

I believe if a patient is treated at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen a course of drugs is required to be funded, the patients local health board in Wales is then contacted for a contribution / all of the cost of the course This request can be accepted or rejected.

Q1. I would like to request data on the number of such requests, outcome of the requests, and if possible, details on the sums (£) involved, groups where easiest eg. per calendar month.

I would like to request the data for the last two complete financial years, and the current financial year to date.

Powys Response:

The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJA) apply to the health board when they intend to treat a patient with a high cost drug (as specified under the English NHS). Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) hold a log of high-cost drug funding applications made to the health board from RJA:

Financial Year	Number of requests approved	Number of requests declined
2022/23	64	Data not available
2023/24	87	1*
2024/25 (Year to date)	71	7

For those which were declined, this was due to:

- Identification that we were not the responsible commissioner x1.
- The medication applied for did not meet the criteria on the relevant National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisal (TA) x5.
- Discussion with the RJAH specialist team which resulted in a more cost effective treatment being agreed upon x2.

* There is potential that we did not record all declined funding applications at the beginning of the period 2023/24 as the service was establishing new processes. The declined requests in this period may be an under representation of the data.

Please see the table below for the total spend on drugs for the period requested:

	Financial Year spend (£k)		
	2022 – 23	2023 – 24	Year to Date (Month 10) 2024 – 25
Anti-Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF)	604	715	513
Other	137	138	82
Total	741	853	595

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



Hywel Pullen
Deputy Director of Finance

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.