

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.253.25

24 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 25 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 am writing to you to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Q1a. Are plastic bin liners used on psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?

Q1b. If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited?

Q1c. How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Q1d. How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bin liners have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Q2a. Are other types of plastic bags (i.e. not bin liners) allowed into psychiatric inpatient wards run by your Trust?

Q2b. If they are not allowed, when were they prohibited?

Q2c. How many incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Q2d. How many inpatient deaths involving plastic bags (excluding bin liners counted above) have there been in the last five years (specifically 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024)?

Powys Response:

Q1a. I can confirm Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) uses bins where the plastic bin liner cannot be accessed.

Q1b. Not applicable.

Q1c. I can confirm no incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bin liners have occurred during the timeframe requested.

Q1d. I can confirm there has been no deaths due to plastic bin liners for the timeframe requested.

Q2a. No.

Q2b. I can confirm plastic bags have not been allowed on the ward for over five years, this was prohibited before 2019.

Q2c. I can confirm no incidents of inpatient self-harm involving plastic bags have occurred during the timeframe requested

Q2d. I can confirm there has been no deaths due to plastic bags for the timeframe requested.

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



**Louisa Kerr**  
**Assistant Director for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities**

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.