

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.330.25

30 May 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 16 May 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:

Q1. Does your trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or trust that you refer GCA patients to.

Q2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:

- Admitted as an inpatient
- Treated in A&E

Q3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:

- Tocilizumab – for any disease
- Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only
- Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only

Powys Response:

Q1. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not have a specialist department which treats patients with Giant Cell Arteritis. PTHB patients are referred to and treated by several providers outside of Powys, in both Welsh health boards and English provider organisations. I therefore recommend that our providers are approached directly and have listed their contact details in the tables below:

Health Trust/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	ghn-tr.foi@nhs.net
Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust	FOI@mpft.nhs.uk
The Robert Jones Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	rjah.foi@nhs.net
Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust	swb-tr.SWBH-GM-FOIRequests@nhs.net
The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	sath.foi@nhs.net
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	rwh-tr.foi@nhs.net
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	wah-tr.FOI@nhs.net
Wye Valley NHS Trust	Freedom.Information@wvt.nhs.uk

Health Board/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	bcu.foi@wales.nhs.uk
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board	FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Freedomofinformation@wales.nhs.uk
Hywel Dda University Health Board	FOI.hyweldda@wales.nhs.uk
Swansea Bay University Health Board	FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Velindre University NHS Trust	Foi.vunhst@wales.nhs.uk

Q2. There were no inpatient admissions to PTHB hospitals between 1 February 2025 and 30 April 2025 where Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) was recorded as a primary diagnosis. Please note that as diagnostic codes are only added after discharge, we cannot rule out that patients have been admitted during this timeframe who have not yet been discharged and thus the diagnosis has not been recorded on our systems.

I can confirm that PTHB does not have Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments, only Minor Injury Units (MIU). We are unable to identify presentations to our Minor Injury Units using the ICD10 codes. We have however searched the free text fields of Presenting Complaint and AE Diagnosis Description for the following terms:

- GCA
- Giant Cell Arteritis
- Giant Cell
- Arteritis

I can confirm that no records were found.

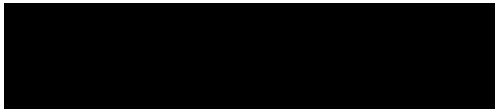
Q3. PTHB does not initiate treatment with tocilizumab; patients are treated by rheumatology providers outside of Powys. PTHB commissions services from a number of Welsh health boards and English provider organisations. Due to the complex nature of PTHB's commissioning arrangements, not all of our providers indicate the indication for use for each episode of care where tocilizumab is used. For this reason, PTHB does not hold the data relating to your request, however,

the health board is working closely with providers to ensure that this information can be provided in the future. I therefore recommend that you approach our providers for this information directly using the table above.

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



Richard Stratton
Assistant Medical Director-Primary Care

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.