

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.344.25

01 July 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 30 May 2025 and subsequent clarification received on 04 June 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:

Please could I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

Q1. The total number of patients waiting for appointments, and the average routine wait time for the following specialties:

- a. Cataract
- b. Glaucoma (hospital)
- c. Glaucoma (ODTC)
- d. Paediatric
- e. Retina
- f. Diabetic Retina

Q2. The total number of patients waiting for urgent appointments for the following specialties:

- a. Cataract
- b. Glaucoma (hospital)
- c. Glaucoma (ODTC)
- d. Paediatric
- e. Retina
- f. Diabetic Retina

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Clarification Requested:

Q1. For the number of patients waiting (Q1 and Q2), please can you confirm if you require,

- a. number waiting for a first outpatient appointment
- b. number waiting for a follow up outpatient appointment
- c. number waiting for a procedure
- d. a combination/all of the above

Q1. Please confirm how you wish for the average routine wait time be calculated? Do you want the mean wait time for each type of referral from date received to first appointment? For all Health Risk Factor (HRFs)?

Q2. Ophthalmology referrals do not get classified as routine/ urgent but instead each is given a specific Health Risk Factor (R1 – R3).

- R1 Risk of irreversible harm or significant patient adverse outcome if target date is missed
- R2 Risk of reversible harm or adverse outcome if target date is missed.
- R3 No risk of significant harm or adverse outcome.

Please can you confirm you require data based on R1?

Q1 - Q2. Can you confirm the grouping of clinical conditions as entered in the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) to those clinical conditions specified in the request (a-f):

Cataract

- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P1
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P1 (Bi-Lateral)
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P1 (Left)
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P2
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P2 (Left)
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P2 (Right)
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P3
- Ophthalmology - Cataract - P3 (Left)

Glaucoma (hospital)

- Ophthalmology - Glaucoma - P1
- Ophthalmology - Glaucoma - P2
- Ophthalmology - Glaucoma - P3

Glaucoma (ODTC)

Paediatric

- Ophthalmology - Other Paediatric - P1
- Ophthalmology - Other Paediatric - P2
- Ophthalmology - Other Paediatric - P3
- Orthoptics - Other Paediatric
- Orthoptics - Other Paediatric - P1
- Orthoptics - Other Paediatric - P2
- Orthoptics - Other Paediatric - P3

Retina

Ophthalmology - Medical Retina - P1
Ophthalmology - Medical Retina - P2
Ophthalmology - Medical Retina - P3
Orthoptics - Motility - P2

Diabetic Retina

Ophthalmology - Diabetic Retinopathy - P1
Ophthalmology - Diabetic Retinopathy - P2

Other conditions we treat

Ophthalmology - Neuro-Ophthalmology - P1
Ophthalmology - Neuro-Ophthalmology - P2
Ophthalmology - Neuro-Ophthalmology - P3
Ophthalmology - Ocular Plastics/Orbit - P1
Ophthalmology - Ocular Plastics/Orbit - P2
Ophthalmology - Ocular Plastics/Orbit - P3
Orthoptics - Other Adult
Orthoptics - Other Adult - P2
Orthoptics - Other Adult - P3
Ophthalmology - Other Adult - P1
Ophthalmology - Other Adult - P2
Ophthalmology - Other Adult - P3

Clarification received:

Q1 - Q2. Please could I have the mean wait time to first appointment for each Health Risk Factor category (1-3) separately.

Q1 - Q2. Below I have categorised the conditions as listed in the Welsh Patient Administration System under the categories from the original request.

Cataract

Ophthalmology - Cataract - P1
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P1 (Bi-Lateral)
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P1 (Left)
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P2
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P2 (Left)
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P2 (Right)
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P3
Ophthalmology - Cataract - P3 (Left)

Glaucoma (hospital)

Ophthalmology - Glaucoma - P1
Ophthalmology - Glaucoma - P2
Ophthalmology - Glaucoma - P3

Glaucoma (ODTC)

Paediatric

Paediatric Ophthalmology - Other Paediatric - P1
Ophthalmology - Other Paediatric - P2
Ophthalmology - Other Paediatric - P3
Orthoptics - Other Paediatric

Orthoptics - Other Paediatric - P1
 Orthoptics - Other Paediatric - P2
 Orthoptics - Other Paediatric - P3

Retina

Ophthalmology - Medical Retina - P1
 Ophthalmology - Medical Retina - P2
 Ophthalmology - Medical Retina - P3

Diabetic Retina

Ophthalmology - Diabetic Retinopathy - P1
 Ophthalmology - Diabetic Retinopathy - P2

Powys Response:

Q1. Please see the table below for number of patients waiting for a first ophthalmology appointment by specialty and health risk factor (HRF) as per the clarification received:

Specialty	Health Risk Factor (HRF)					Total
	R1	R2	R3	Routine	Null	
Cataract	18	330	1	0	12	361
Glaucoma (hospital)	125	27	1	0	0	153
Paediatric	6	18	3	0	1	28
Retina	28	8	2	0	2	40
Diabetic Retina	37	5	0	0	3	45
Neuro-Ophthalmology	2	3	0	0	0	5
Ocular Plastics/Orbit	8	28	30	0	0	66
Ophthalmology	8	32	12	0	1	53
Orthoptics	0	3	0	0	0	3
Unknown	14	13	6	12	1	46
Total	246	467	55	12	20	800

Please note: we are unable to accurately collect Orthoptists data using HRF coding.

Please see the table below for the mean wait (in weeks) for a 1st outpatient appointment for all those who attended a 1st appointment between 1st June 2024 and 31st May 2025.

Specialty	Health Risk Factor			
	R1	R2	R3	null
Cataract	33	37	48	39
Glaucoma (hospital)	25	25	26	38
Paediatric	13	16	14	N/A*
Retina	21	30	28	37
Diabetic Retina	20	21	N/A*	39
Neuro-Ophthalmology	19	20	33	39
Ocular Plastics/Orbit	24	26	29	34
Ophthalmology	17	18	29	38

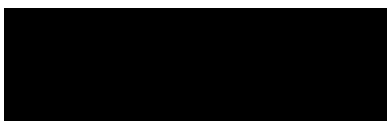
* We are unable to provide a response as there were no first appointments for that combination of Health Risk Factor (HRF) and specialty in the time frame.

Q2. I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board's Ophthalmology waiting times are not generally classed as urgent/routine but instead get a health risk factor (HRF). Therefore, as per the clarification received, this question is answered by the breakdown provided in Q1.

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.