

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.536.25

03 November 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 08 October 2025 and subsequent clarification received on 13 October 2025, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partially holds the information that you require, but have applied an exemption to elements of this request.

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 under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information:

Q1. Could I get the age of the different computer systems used by the Powys Teaching Health Board.

Q2. Could this be broken down by the software and the year it was introduced into use by the Trust.

If you are encountering practical difficulties with complying with this request, please contact me as soon as possible, so that we can discuss the matter and, if necessary, I can modify the request.

Clarification requested:

Q1. Please can you confirm what is meant by 'computer systems' and how would you like this data to be broken down? E.g. would you like the information for end user devices or to include servers as well.

Q2. Please can you confirm what software you would like the data for; are you referring to operating systems?

Clarification response:

In this case I am referring to operating systems. I would like it broken down by the system, its use, the age of the software, and when it was installed in systems at Powys Teaching Health Board.

Powys Response:

Q1 & Q2. Windows 10 was first introduced to the Health Board in 2019. Efforts to upgrade to Windows 11 were started in 2024. These Operating Systems are used in our End User Devices, i.e. PCs, Laptops.

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) employ both Android OS and Apple iOS for mobile devices i.e. mobile phones, tablets. Android devices were first introduced in 2017, with Apple iOS devices in 2019. Apple iOS is also used on several PCs in the Health Board and are used for device management and creative applications.

Please note that we are not releasing the operating systems for servers or specific versions of operating systems in use due to security concerns. I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply. PTHB is withholding this information from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This section states,

“Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

(a) the prevention or detection of crime”

Section 30 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply to this request.

This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). We consider that if the data you have requested were to be combined with other information which may be available in the public domain, there would likely to be an increased risk of a cyber-security attack upon the Trust. As part of the Critical National Infrastructure for the NHS, the Trust/Health Board has a duty to protect the integrity of our systems, and the Trust is of the opinion that disclosure of the withheld information would be likely to prejudice the prevention of these criminal acts in relation to the NHS Wales computer systems leading to the disruption of the operations of NHS Wales. It is our belief the disclosure of the information requested could expose weaknesses in our systems and lead to breaches, making the UK or its citizens, in this case our patients, more vulnerable to security threat. Section 31 is a prejudice-based exemption and therefore subject to a public interest test.

Public Interest Test:

To use these exceptions, we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- Disclosure of the data supports the public interest in the transparency, accountability and general understanding of the delivery of public services.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- Breaches in Health board security and is therefore a reasonable threat to the confidential patient data held on our systems.
- Temporary or long-term lack of availability of IT systems
- Corruption/loss of patient data which would prevent or interrupt provision of patient care.
- Public interest in keeping PTHB's computer systems secure which would be served by non-disclosure.
- System recovery would be detrimental to PTHB's day to day business running.

There is a strong public interest in protecting the confidentiality of patient data and of ensuring that health care services can be provided to the public without increasing the possibility of attack by hackers or malware, or of putting personal or other information held on these systems at risk of corruption or subject to illegal access. There is also an overwhelming public interest in keeping the Health Board's computer systems secure which would be served by non-disclosure. For these reasons PTHB has decided that it is in the public interest to withhold this information at this time. This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

If you have queries or any concerns, contact details are given at the top of the letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your request and wish to ask for a review of this, please contact us and we will arrange for this to be done.

Further information is available from the Information Commissioner's Office who can be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH.

Telephone: 0330 414 6421

Complaints Portal: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Web site: <https://ico.org.uk/>

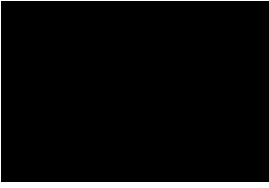
Re-use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Health Board in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Health Board will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however, the Health Board reserves the right, in certain circumstances to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information including a sample license terms and fees can be found at [Open Government Licence](#).

Yours sincerely



Vicki Cooper
Chief Digital Data Officer

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.