

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.537.25

7 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) does hold 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 each question individually.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the procurement of uniforms and linen by your organisation. Specifically, I would like to obtain the following details:

- Q1. Current supplier(s) for uniforms and linen.
- Q2. Contract end date and any known renewal or retender schedule.
- Q3. Annual usage in quantity (e.g., pieces or sets) for each product category - tentative
- Q4. Annual spend amount on uniforms and linen over the past 12 months.
- Q5. Any measurable social value commitments linked to the contract, such as local employment initiatives, skills development, or community benefits.
- Q6. Any reported carbon reduction outcomes related to the supply or logistics of uniforms and linen.
7. Any sustainability metrics tracked, including material composition, recycling/repurposing initiatives, or environmental impact assessments.

Pencadlys
Tŷ Glasbury, Ysbyty Bronllys,
Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LU
Ffôn: 01874 711661



Headquarters
Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital
Brecon, Powys LD3 0LU
Tel: 01874 711661

8. Whether SME suppliers are considered or encouraged for participation in future procurement exercises for uniforms and linen.

Clarification Requested:

1. Scope of Linen Enquiry- Please can you confirm if you are seeking details regarding patient linen services (such as sheets, towels, gowns, and bedding managed through an NHS laundry service), or referring specifically to staff uniforms and workwear? If both, would you like these reported separately within the response?
2. Uniforms – Coverage Do you wish us to include all staff groups (clinical and non-clinical), or focus on specific groups such as nursing, catering, or domestic staff?
3. Usage Quantities - When you refer to “annual usage in quantity (e.g. pieces or sets)”, would indicative order volumes be acceptable, or are you seeking exact item counts?
4. Spend Data - Would you like separate spend values for uniforms and linen, or a combined total?
5. Social Value and Sustainability Metrics - Are you seeking information specific to the uniforms and linen contracts, or the organisation’s wider procurement and sustainability commitments?
6. Time Period for Reporting Please confirm whether “the past 12 months” refers to the most recent full financial year (for example 2024/25) or a rolling 12-month period from the date of the request.

Clarification Received:

1. Yes, I required both details of patient linen services and uniform for non-clinical and clinical, I request you to report separately in the report.
2. We request for both clinical and non-clinical separately, if possible, please.
3. Looking for exact item counts
4. Separate for linen and uniform please.
5. Yes, link to linen and uniform contracts.
6. Recent full financial year.

Powys Response:

Q1. I can confirm that the current supplier for uniforms and linen is Alsico UK and Alexandra (Mi Hub).

Q2. The contract for Alsico UK ends on 5 July 2027. There is no known renewal or retender schedule. The contract for Alexandra (Mi Hub) ends on 18 April 2026 with a 24-month extension available. There is no known renewal or retender schedule.

Q3. The annual usage for Alsico UK is 1348 pieces/sets. For Alexandra (Mi Hub) it is 5509 pieces/sets.

Q4. I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) are withholding the annual financial spend for the above suppliers as this information as it is considered exempt under Section 43 Commercial Interests of the Freedom of Information Act. This section of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know if releasing the information is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (a person maybe an individual, company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity).

This exemption was considered by the Health Board when deciding whether to release this information because it was felt that, in doing so, it could create a significant risk in prejudicing the commercial interests of the Health Board and third parties we work with.

As this is a qualified exemption the Health Board must consider the public interest in deciding whether to withhold or disclose the information. The Health Board accepts that there is a public interest in ensuring openness and transparency. However, the Health Board believes that disclosure of information in a manner which fails to protect the interests and relationships arising in a commercial context could discourage third parties from dealing with the Health Board because of fears that the disclosure of information could damage them commercially. In turn, this could jeopardise the Health Board's ability to compete fairly and pursue its function to bring forward development in the area and obtain value for money. As a result, exemption Section 43 is engaged as it is not considered in the public interest to disclose this.

Q5. The NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) have noted that Alsico UK scored the full 10% available for their social value submission, due to their partnership with a local social enterprise. Health Boards and Trusts have the option to reserve portions of the contract to a local social enterprise over the lifetime of the contract, should they wish. NWSSP evaluated various aspects of social value within their submission, including local employment, training opportunities, charitable and voluntary commitments, and support for the Welsh Language. However, NWSSP is unable to reference the explicit Social Value commitments of the winning bidder due to the commercial sensitivity associated.

Q6. NWSSP records the Supply Chain Carbon Footprint of its suppliers and spend using the Welsh Government Net Zero Reporting Spreadsheet and Guide. Carbon Reduction outcomes would be linked to PPN006 compliant Carbon Reduction Plans, which measures scope 1,2 and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions

Q7. NWSSP tracks existing sustainability metrics of supply chain decarbonisation and foundational economy expenditure, although these are due to be replaced by those within the statutory guidance of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Act.

The sustainability metrics referenced in the question would align with a Tier 3, Product Life Cycle Assessment of Carbon Emissions, which is not utilised due to methodological differences

Q8. NWSSP notes that Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SME's) are considered on an equal footing to other bidders within competitive processes. Furthermore, NWSSP encourages SME participation in competitive tender processes by attending "meet the buyer" events, having regard for SME participation and conducting robust supplier engagement in line with the Procurement Act 2023.

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



Wayne Tannahill

Associate Director of Capital, Estates and Property

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.