

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.147.26

01 May 2026

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 02 April 2026, 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 the Health Board's response follows each question individually.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request and Powys Response (Bold):

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information. Please could you supply data for each of the ICBs you manage FOIs for, where applicable. If all questions cannot be answered in the appropriate time limit, please answer the questions in order until the time limit is reached.

Please note that this request is not applicable to our Mental Health Continuing HealthCare (CHC) Team as they do not deal with Fast-track CHC applications. In addition, Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is not part of an Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Q1. In 2025, how many referrals of any form were made to the ICB for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare (CHC)? – **Please see the table below for the number of referrals made to PTHB:**

CHC Area	Number of referrals for fast track CHC
General	313
Childrens	0

Q2. How many of the referrals in question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the ICB? – **Please see the table below which highlighted the number of referral rejected by PTHB:**

CHC Area	Number of referrals rejected
General	2 Fast-track applications were not ratified in panel
Childrens	Not applicable based on Q1

Q3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate
General	Lack of information and evidence to support the fast-track rationale.
Childrens	Not applicable.

Q4. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed by a) The referrer, or b) The patient/their family. – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Number of referrals withdrawn/ closed by:	
	a. the referrer	b. the patient/ their family
General	0	0
Childrens	Not applicable.	Not applicable.

Q5. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place? – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Number of referrals withdrawn/ closed as a result of the patient dying
General	35
Childrens	Not applicable.

Q6. In 2025, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare? – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Number of referrals accepted for Fast-track CHC
General	311
Childrens	0

Q7. In 2025, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned. Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days. If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2025). – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Response
General	I can confirm that this data is not available. Each application varies depending on availability in the area and the care required.
Childrens	Not applicable.

Q8. In 2025, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place. Please provide the answer in days. If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2025). – **As above, this information is not available.**

Q9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support? – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Response
General	<p>The criteria considered would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether there was evidence of a primary health need • whether there had been a catastrophic event • whether the patient had been rapidly deteriorating or was near end of life which would require supporting end of life care pathway and advanced care planning
Childrens	<p>Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) discussions are held in conjunction with carers and parents. Children’s Nursing Assessments are completed with a 24-hour plan. These are discussed, implemented and then discussed retrospectively at panel.</p>

As part of this, please could you explain:

a. The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?) – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Response
General	Please see above response to Q9.
Childrens	Nurse Assessor in conjunction with Team Lead following discussions with Multi-Disciplinary Team, especially health professionals in District General Hospital.

b. Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the ICB before being granted? Please explain this process if so. – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Response
General	No further checks.
Childrens	All referrals for Fast-track Children’s Continuing Care (CCC) from outside the Children’s Nursing Services are subject to discussions within the CCC team and healthcare managers in the form of an exceptional meeting as and when required. This is retrospectively

	brought through the Children’s Continuing Care Panel for information and captured within the dashboard.
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c. Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support? – **Please see the table below:**

CHC Area	Response
General	No, however the patient would need to fit the fast-track criteria by having a rapidly deteriorating condition.
Childrens	All children requiring Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare would have a rapidly deteriorating condition, with nursing needs that cannot be met fully by universal and referred/specialist services and are over and above the care a parent can be expected to provide.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling or response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Should you wish an internal review, please quote the reference number and send your correspondence to the above address.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner 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/>

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

Yours sincerely



David Farnsworth
Assistant Director, Community Services Group



Amie Symes
Director of Midwifery, Women and Family

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.