

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.179.26

13 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 29 April 2026, 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 the Health Board's response follows each question individually.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the adoption of modern surgical technology within adult urology services, specifically regarding the treatment of phimosis and related conditions.

Q1. Does the Health Board utilize or commission disposable circular stapling anastomat devices (e.g., ZSR, CircCurer, or generic automated stapling equivalents) for adult therapeutic procedures? - **Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not utilise or commission disposable circular stapling anastomat devices (e.g. ZSR, CircCurer, or automated stapling equivalents) for adult therapeutic procedures. All applicable procedures are carried out using traditional hand-sutured techniques.**

Q2. If yes, please specify the preferred mechanism of the device used (e.g., pistol-grip or dual-handle/scissor-grip construction) - **Not applicable, as automated stapling devices are not used by the Health Board.**

Q3. What is the average theatre time allocated for a traditional hand-sutured procedure versus an automated stapler procedure for adult patients? - **Not applicable, as automated stapler procedures are not undertaken within PTHB and hand-sutured procedures average times are not recorded.**

Q4. Are these procedures performed in a Day Case unit/community setting or a Main Operating Theatre under general anesthesia? - **Procedures using traditional hand-sutured techniques are performed in an operating theatre for day-case pathways at both Breconshire War Memorial Hospital and Llandrindod Wells Memorial Hospital.**

Q5. In accordance with the Montgomery v Lanarkshire (2015) ruling, does the Board provide information to adult patients on the choice between traditional freehand surgery and automated stapling alternatives? - **In line with the Montgomery v Lanarkshire (2015) judgment, patients are provided with information on the treatment options that are available within PTHB. As automated stapling alternatives are not offered or commissioned by the Health Board, consent discussions relate to traditional surgical techniques only.**

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/>

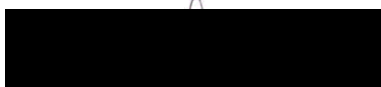
Re-use of Public Sector Information

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



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.