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Powys Teaching
Health Board

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Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.350.26

6 October 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 17 August 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):

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information:

Please note our remit, and thus the remit of this FOI, does not include Motor Neuron Disease (MND). A full list of relevant conditions and ICD-10 codes is attached for your reference.

We are writing to seek access to the following information:

Q1. Please confirm whether your health board has any strategies or transformation programmes relevant to neurological services.

- If so, please provide the relevant strategy documents.

Adults: Our community neurological team was formed in July 2025; we have a standard operating procedure in draft which we continue to develop as we test out new processes. As the document is not yet finalised, it is not currently available for release.

Children: Early intervention support for babies, children and young people with neurological conditions forms part of the Health Board's core service provision. Due to the size of the population served by Powys Teaching Health Board, the service supports children and young

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people with a range of neurological conditions, predominantly Cerebral Palsy, alongside a small number of less common neurological conditions. The Health Board does not hold any specific strategy or transformation programme documents for these services, neuromuscular conditions in children as rarely seen or managed in Powys.

Q2. Does your health board provide community-based neurology services?

- If yes, can you confirm whether the community-based neurology services treats people with neuromuscular conditions? Please provide the referral criteria used by each team, including a list of conditions which are accepted/covered by the team.

Adult: Yes. Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) provides community-based neurology services. Our adults service accepts referrals for patients with a range of neurological conditions, including neuromuscular conditions. Referrals are considered through a clinical triage process undertaken by the team. Acceptance is determined on a case-by-case basis rather than solely on the basis of a specific diagnosis. PTHB does not currently hold a definitive list of conditions that are automatically accepted or excluded by the service. Referral criteria are based on clinical need and are assessed through the service's routine triage arrangements to determine whether referral to the Community Neurology Service is appropriate.

Children: Yes, all babies, children and young people are seen with a variety of neurological conditions. Referral criteria for relevant services are outlined below:

Paediatric Physiotherapy: Open referral for children and young people with physiotherapy needs.

Paediatric Occupational Therapy: Open referral for children and young people with occupational therapy needs.

Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy (SLT): Open referral for children and young people with a speech, language, communication, feeding, or swallowing need.

Community Paediatrics: Accepts referrals for children and young people with developmental concerns, including some who have neurological conditions. Referrals for possible epilepsy are excluded, as assessment and management are undertaken by neighbouring Health Board epilepsy services.

Children's Community Nursing: Open referral for children and young people with community nursing needs, including training and support for those receiving enteral feeding and/or oxygen therapy. The service includes a nurse with a specialist interest in epilepsy who accepts referrals for community-based support and liaison with the relevant epilepsy service provider, and a nurse with a specialist interest in

palliative care, including support for children and young people with neurological conditions such as progressive dystonia.

Children's Dietetics: Open referral for children and young people with a dietetic need.

Q3. Within the past three years (2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26), have you reviewed improvement in care and pathways for neuromuscular conditions?

- If yes, what did this review find? Please provide any relevant reports or discussion papers.
- If no, please confirm whether and when your organisation has plans to review this.

Adults: No, improvements to care pathways are currently being developed as part of the wider Community Neurological Team service development, which encompasses a broader range of neurological conditions and is not specific to neuromuscular conditions.

Children: Paediatric Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapies have linked with The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJAH) tertiary centre to review the care pathway, anticipated 2026-2027 but not previously. Numbers are too small for those neuromuscular conditions in other services to specifically review with clinicians instead actively engaging in multidisciplinary work on a case-by-case basis where needed including with tertiary services when indicated.

Q4. Over the same time period, have you reviewed the care and support needs of people living with a neuromuscular condition within your local population, and planned services to meet these needs?

- If yes, what did this review find? Please provide any relevant reports or discussion papers.
- If not, are there plans to do so?

Adults: No. The Health Board has not undertaken a specific review of the care and support needs of people living with neuromuscular conditions. Improvements to care pathways are currently being developed as part of the wider Community Neurology Team service development, which encompasses a broad range of neurological conditions and is not specific to neuromuscular conditions.

Children: Yes, relevant paediatric services have reviewed the care and support needs of babies, children and young people living with neuromuscular conditions within the Powys population as part of wider caseload reviews and clinical supervision processes. These reviews are undertaken as part of routine service delivery and planning. The Health Board does not hold any formal reports or discussion papers arising from this work.

Q5. Please confirm the total number of children and adults with a known diagnosis of a neuromuscular condition within the population covered by your health board.

Adults: The Health Board does not hold data that would enable it to determine the incidence of conditions within the population. The information on conditions held by the Health Board is limited to conditions recorded on admission to a Powys hospital. As many individuals with the condition may be diagnosed and managed in primary care, other healthcare settings, or may not require admission to hospital, this data should not be interpreted as a measure of incidence.

If the information would be of assistance, the Health Board can provide the number of admissions to Powys Hospitals recorded with a diagnosis code reflecting each of the specified conditions.

Information relating to population-level incidence may be held by primary care organisations or public health bodies.

Children: We do not hold this data in a reportable format for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. Within Community Paediatrics there are 4 babies, children and young people coded with a diagnosis of a neuromuscular condition out of a total caseload of 700.

Q6. Please provide the total annual funding provided for adult and paediatric neurology for the financial year 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26.-

Please see below table. Please note these figures are for our directly provided services only:

	Stroke Service – Adults		ND Service – Children
2022-2023	£107,804		£204,831
2023-2024	£77,562		£222,817
2024-2025	£221,778		£247,742
2025-2026	£528,021		£264,590

Q7. Please provide the total annual funding provided for neuromuscular care for the financial year 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26. If exact figures are not available, please provide an approximation based on the records you hold.

Please see below table:

	Stroke Service Annual Expenditure
2022-2023	£107,804
2023-2024	£77,562
2024-2025	£221,778
2025-2026	£528,021

Please note:

- **Neurodevelopment services are outside the scope of the request.**
- **The Stroke Service will include elements outside of the scope of the FOI request, however, we are unable to quantify.**

- **A small percentage of the Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy service will support neuromuscular care. Again, activity is not captured in a format that can be captured.**

Q8. Please confirm whether your health board includes people with lived experience of neurological conditions in decision-making about the commissioning of neurological services. If yes, please provide further details. If not, please outline the barriers.

Adults: Some service user feedback is being obtained as part of community neurological rehabilitation intervention and will be used to inform service development in future

Children: The health board had a Stroke & Neurological Conditions Steering Group which is mainly adult focused but has included people with lived experience in its work.

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



Hywel Pullen
Deputy Director of Finance



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.