

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.066.26

4 March 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 13 February 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 writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act to request the following information: I am interested in the types and colours of surgical skin markers used within your organisation, and how procurement or clinical guidance decisions are made about their use.

Please provide the following information:

Q1. A list of all surgical skin markers currently used in your organisation for:

- Pre-operative site marking in theatres.
- Marking the skin for bedside or ward-based procedures (e.g., central venous access, chest drains, skin demarcation, or similar).

I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) use Fannin Easi Mark Surgical Marking Pen.

Q2. For each marker, please include:

- Brand and product name - **Fannin Easi Mark Surgical Marking Pen SM0372 Fine/ Regular tip with flexible ruler & labels and SM0472 Super Fine tip with flexible ruler.**
- Ink colour(s) - **Non-Toxic Gentian Violet Ink.**
- Typical clinical area(s) where it is used - **Pre procedure marking and theatre.**

Q3. Copies of any product specifications, catalogues, or procurement documents held by the organisation that describe available colours and intended use - **All catalogues are viewed online.**

Q4. Copies of any current Organisational policies, protocols, guidelines, or training materials that:

- Refer to the choice of surgical skin marker colour – **Not applicable. There are none.**
- Refer to visibility of markings in different clinical contexts or patient groups – **Not applicable. There are none.**
- Address this issue within equality, diversity and inclusion, patient safety, or clinical governance documents – **Not applicable. There are none.**

Q5. Information on whether any additional or alternative marker colours (beyond standard ones) are available within the organisation (e.g., for use in clinical areas or patient groups where standard markings may be less visible). – **Not applicable. There are none.**

Q6. Anonymised, aggregated incident reports, risk assessments, or patient safety reports (1 January 2019 to present) where visibility of skin markings was identified as a contributory factor. (No patient-identifiable information is requested). – **None.**

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



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.