

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.002.26

19 January 2026

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I write further to your request for information, which was received on 5 January 2026, and subsequent email received 8 January 2026 following issue of our final response, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partially holds the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and my response follows.

Your Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Request:

The attached risk assessment appears to be for endoscopy. Please note that the request below requests the formaldehyde (formalin) risk assessment for operating/surgical theatres. This has not been disclosed.

Please also note that questions 3 and 6 below have also not been answered. I note in the response that the Trust does not have a histopathology dept, but this is irrelevant to the current request.

Q3. How does the Trust prevent or control employee exposure to formaldehyde (formalin) in its operating/surgical theatres, including but not limited to engineering, procedural, and/or organisational controls?

Q6. If regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring is not undertaken, please provide documentation held by the Trust that demonstrates the effectiveness of current controls and supports the decision that routine monitoring is not required. If no such documentation is held, please confirm how the Trust assures compliance with COSHH Regulations 7 and 10 in the absence of routine exposure monitoring.

Powys Response:

Please accept our sincere apologies for this oversight in omitting this data in your original request. I have provided an updated response to Q3 and Q6.

Q1. Please see FOI.002.26 Attachment 2 for Neutral Buffered Formalin COSHH Risk Assessment for operating/ surgical theatres.

Q3. I can confirm that the controls are noted within FOI.002.26 - Attachment 2.

Q6. Exposure monitoring is not undertaken within Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB). The exposure controls are within the COSHH assessment which aligns with the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Please see FOI.002.26 Attachment 3 for SDS.

Should you remain dissatisfied with how your request has been handled, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office who can be contacted at:

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/>

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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

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.