

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.016.26

9 February 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 12 January 2026, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) partially holds the information that you require, but have applied an exemption to elements of this request. For ease of reference your request is set out below and the Health Board's response follows.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

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

Q1. I would like to know from 2015 to 2025, how many in patients on general medical wards required psychiatric input whilst an inpatient on general medicine wards.

Q2. And out of those patients that required psychiatric input how many required a mental health act assessment.

Q3. And out of those patients how many were sectioned under the mental health act assessment.

Q4. And out of those that needed psychiatric input how many required outside mental health trained staff to provide level 1 observations.

Q5. And what was the cost to the health board to employ mental health trained staff either via bank shifts or agency staff to provide the observation levels to patients on a general medicine ward.

In both numeric and percentages per hospital. Including the number of general medicine wards included in the data.

Powys Response:

Q1 and 2: Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not hold figures for 2015 and part of 2016. In addition, PTHB does not routinely collect data on the number of general medical inpatients who required psychiatric input, nor on the number of patients on our general wards who required a Mental Health Act assessment.

To identify this information, the Health Board would be required to undertake a manual review of all relevant patient records from 2016 to date. This would involve reviewing 10,844 patient records across the nine inpatient wards to determine whether psychiatric involvement or a Mental Health Act assessment occurred during each admission. It is estimated that each record would take approximately 17.5 minutes to review, equating to a total of 3,162 hours and 50 minutes of staff time.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 for NHS bodies. Based on the standard rate of £25 per hour, the cost of undertaking this work would be £78,820.83, which significantly exceeds the statutory limit. As a result, we are unable to provide the information requested.

Q3. I can confirm that 16 patients on general medical wards were sectioned under the mental health act assessment between 2016 and 2025.

Q4. I can confirm that Powys Teaching Health Board does not centrally record the number of required outside mental health trained staff to provide level 1 observations. However, we can provide you with the number of filled bank/agency shifts where a mental health Healthcare Support Workers (HCSW) or Registered Mental Health Nurse (RMN) was required. Please let us know if you require this information.

Q5. We do not centrally record data where requests were made for observations only and we are therefore unable to provide this breakdown.

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



Louisa Kerr
Assistant Director for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities

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.